

Libya said building its own missile

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. intelligence reports indicate Libya may be building a guided missile with the help of West German technology, Pentagon officials said Tuesday. The defense officials were asked about a U.S. television report that Libya had already built such a missile, with a range of 480 kilometres, and was ready to test it at an air base near Sabha. "There have been reports the Libyans are working on a surface-to-surface missile. I don't know the range," one of the officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. Pentagon officials expressed concern that Libya might get a weapon capable of hitting Egypt, Tunisia, Chad or possibly Sicily in the Mediterranean. But they said it was doubtful Libya could obtain the technology or materials to mount even a small nuclear warhead on such a weapon. One official said the new missile was apparently being built with help from at least one West German firm. He did not identify the company or companies involved. ABC Television, quoting intelligence sources, reported Libya was ready to test its first ballistic missile, built with assistance from unidentified West German aerospace companies. It said a prototype of the rocket will be fired from an air force base near Sabha, in west-central Libya.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Lawmakers vote to subpoena Shultz

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional investigators of the sex and spy scandal at the U.S. embassy in Moscow voted unanimously on Tuesday to subpoena Secretary of State George Shultz to force him to turn over withheld documents. In an unusual action, the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs subcommittee voted 6-0 to compel Mr. Shultz to submit the papers, which involve classified cables and other material they say is vital for the espionage probe. Although Mr. Shultz was being named in the subpoena, there was no evidence he actually ordered papers kept from the investigators. No immediate comment was available from Mr. Shultz. The espionage case involves U.S. marines who allegedly had sexual relations with Soviet female spies and let other Kremlin intelligence agents roam secret areas of the embassy. The subcommittee chairman, Dan Mica, a Florida Democrat, told reporters the documents were being withheld from the investigators and there could be possibly a cover-up. "I'm shocked and chagrined," he said. If there is any sign of a cover-up, Mr. Mica said there would be a subsequent investigation into whether officials are violating laws.

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Crown Prince to visit U.K. in May

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is scheduled to visit London by the end of May, according to diplomatic sources quoted by the Qatari News Agency in a report from London. The sources said Prince Hassan would deliver a speech at the Jordanian-British Friendship Society, outlining the latest Middle East developments. The sources also told QNA they expected Prince Hassan to meet with a number of British officials to discuss bilateral ties and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Masri to visit N. Korea and Yugoslavia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri will visit Yugoslavia and North Korea in June for discussions with officials in these two countries the latest developments in the region, the Qatari News Agency (QNA) reported. The news agency, quoting unnamed officials here, said that Mr. Masri's tour comes within Jordan's constant political moves to prepare for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Italy to go to polls on June 14

ROME (R) — Italy will hold general elections on June 14, Labour Minister Ermanno Gorrieri said. The date was fixed at a cabinet meeting after President Francesco Cossiga dissolved parliament. The dissolution followed the defeat of Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani's minority government in a parliamentary confidence vote earlier Tuesday.

Portuguese elections set for July 19

LISBON (R) — Portuguese President Mario Soares announced the dissolution of parliament and called a general election for July 19 to end a three-week political crisis. "The decision was taken in the national interest alone and as quickly as possible to stop this undesirable situation from dragging on," Mr. Soares said in a televised address. The crisis was sparked by the toppling of Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva's minority centre-right government in a parliamentary vote after 17 months in power (See page 6).

Walsh findings cover high U.S. officials

WASHINGTON (R) — Special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh said Tuesday his criminal investigation into the Iran arms scandal covered possible violations by high U.S. government officials and that large sums of money remain unaccounted for. "The allegations in the investigation concern possible violations of public trust and possible misuse of position by high government officials and their manipulation by former government officials," Mr. Walsh said.

Israel suspends Jerusalem daily

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli military authorities on Tuesday suspended for one week distribution on the occupied West Bank of an Arabic-language newspaper. An army spokeswoman said the daily Al Shaab failed to submit material to military censors on several occasions recently.

INSIDE

- Australia considering response to Tehran's expulsion move, page 2
- Jordan and UAE sign cooperation agreement, page 3
- Reagan and the arms trade with Iran, page 4
- Car market moves to four-wheel drive, page 5
- Critical day for Europe's soccer nations, page 6
- Kuwait bank sees benefits in oil glut, page 7
- Portuguese parliament dissolved, page 8

Jordan and Tunisia call for Arab summit

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia on Tuesday called for the convening of an Arab summit conference to study the situation in the Arab region, and stressed the need for intensified efforts for holding an international conference under United Nations auspices to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The two countries issued the call in a joint press statement issued in Amman and Tunis upon the conclusion of a visit to Jordan by Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Hadi Al Mabrouk. In the statement, the two countries paid tribute to the "heroic stand of the Arab people under Israeli rule" and expressed total support for "the Iraqi people and armed forces in defending the Arab homeland."

The statement noted that during his visit to Jordan Mr. Mabrouk was received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to whom he conveyed greetings from Tunisian Prime Minister Rashid Sfar and an invitation to visit Tunisia.

The prime minister accepted the invitation and said that a date for the visit would be fixed soon. The Tunisian minister and the prime minister reviewed Arab issues and international questions of common concern and also discussed means of bolstering bilateral cooperation in all fields (See page 3).

Mr. Mabrouk and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri held talks on developments in Arab affairs in general and found that Tunisia and Jordan hold identical views on matters discussed, the statement said.

It noted that both sides expressed conviction that a just and durable peace in the Middle East region could not be established without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories, and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The statement underlined the importance of an international conference under U.N. auspices to bring about a just and durable peace in the region. It said that such a conference should be attended by all concerned parties in the conflict and the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The two countries praised the Palestinian people for their heroic steadfastness in the face of Israel's attempts to uproot them from their homeland through various forms of pressure.

They also expressed deep concern over the ongoing Gulf conflict which they said continues to sap Arab resources and weaken Muslim nations. The statement voiced Jordanian and Tunisian support for the Iraqi people in their defence of the Arab land, honour and dignity.

The two countries expressed their support for efforts being spearheaded by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to bring an end to the Gulf war and the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

EC to press ahead with Middle East peace efforts

LUXEMBOURG (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) is to press ahead with its diplomatic initiative to promote Middle East peace despite worries over a tougher position by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said Monday.

Mr. Tindemans, who has just visited Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to promote EC support for an international peace conference on the Middle East, said he would continue the initiative with visits to Israel and possibly Tunisia and Algeria early next month.

He told a news conference he might also meet PLO leaders in Tunisia. But he said the community foreign ministers were worried about a hardening in the PLO position, after it cancelled the Feb. 11, 1985 accord with Jordan.

The abrogation of the Amman accord was a blow to the prospects for peace in the Middle East," Mr. Tindemans said. "But I do not regard it as a mortal blow," he said, adding that the response he had received so far to the EC initiative had been warm and encouraging.

However, the EC efforts themselves are hindered by Britain's refusal to allow any visit by Mr. Tindemans to Syria, official sources quoted by Reuters said.

Britain, which led an EC move to impose sanctions on Syria, broke off diplomatic relations with Damascus after Syria was implicated in an alleged plot to blow up an Israeli airliner at Ligon's Heathrow airport last year.

The sources said Mr. Tindemans had told the community foreign ministers that "nothing will move in the Middle East without Syria."

EC sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AP that Mr. Tindemans suggested Monday that Syria's foreign minister be invited to Brussels to discuss prospects for achieving an Arab-Israeli peace. Britain rejected the idea, the sources said.

Syrians to deploy in Amal-PSP buffer zone

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian troops plan to take over a new position in Beirut's southern outskirts to separate rival leftist and Shi'ite militias, a source close to Syrian military intelligence said.

The source said no date had been set for the Syrian move into the sensitive "Tiro triangle" named after a local paint factory and bounded by Shi'ite-controlled suburbs to the north, Druze-dominated hills to the south and Christian areas to the east.

The deployment was aimed at halting sporadic skirmishes between the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia-men and their rivals in the Shi'ite Amal movement, the source added.

Amal and the PSP, previously allied against rightist forces, fought bitter street battles in west Beirut in February, triggering the intervention of at least 7,500 Syrian troops.

Beirut's French-language daily L'Orient-Le Jour said a Syrian unit under Colonel Ali Hamoud, head of a military observer corps, had already reconnoitered the Tiro triangle.

The Syrians are deployed in strength nearby at Beirut airport and the planned move would bring them closer to the "green line" battlefield that slices Beirut into a mainly Christian east and a mostly Muslim west.

It would also tighten Syrian control around Shi'ite suburbs controlled by Amal and Pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) fundamentalists. Kidnappers are believed to use hideouts in the area to hold many of the 28 foreigners missing in Lebanon.

The Syrians clashed with Hizbollah, killing at least 18 of its militants, during their Feb. 22 move into west Beirut.

Since then, they have taken up positions around the big Palestinian refugee camp of Bourj Al Barajneh, in southern Beirut, and along the coast road to the southern port city of Sidon, but have stayed clear of Shi'ite residential districts.

AP adds: A dozen mortar rounds exploded in three residential districts of east Beirut Tuesday and police reported three people killed and eight wounded.

A spokesman for the Lebanese forces, the main rightist militia, blamed the barrage on Amal.

and Iranian forces to the internationally recognised boundaries and exchange of prisoners of war and negotiations for a settlement. In reviewing the situation of Lebanon, the statement said Jordan and Tunisia stressed the need for the unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanese soil in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and they supported stability in Lebanon and the country's independence and territorial integrity.

Jordan and Tunisia, the statement said, studied the Arab situation and called for the convening of an Arab summit meeting as early as possible to launch joint action benefiting the whole Arab Nation.

In the statement, Jordan and Tunisia voiced their total support for the Arab League and its affiliated organisations, which they said, serve the cause of joint Arab action and Arab objectives in implementation of the Arab League Charter.

The statement said Jordan and Tunisia reviewed bilateral relations which it described as remarkable and being developed continuously under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia. The statement said the two countries expressed interest in boosting cooperation in all fields and said they would continue to pursue coordination and consultations to explore further areas of cooperation.

Mr. Mabrouk extended an invitation to Mr. Masri to visit Tunisia and a date will be fixed later for the visit.

Peres to seek cabinet okay for peace conference

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will ask the Israeli cabinet soon to endorse participation in an international peace conference, a senior government official said Tuesday.

Mr. Peres would tell the cabinet he has Arab agreement and support from the United States for the conference to begin, probably in Geneva, this year, the official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters.

Mr. Peres told reporters he was prepared to go to elections if he was unable to win over cabinet opponents of a peace conference, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"This is a great opportunity. We must not miss out. It goes beyond all usual party strategy, and if there is a need, we will also go to the people," the Labour Party leader said.

The senior official said much of the groundwork for a peace conference was being carried out by a U.S. special envoy, Wat Claverius.

Mr. Peres' insistence that a peace conference would not be able to impose solutions was meant to win over Mr. Shamir, who fears a meeting will force Israel to withdraw to "undefensible" pre-1967 borders, the official said.

Mr. Shamir confirmed he had received a message from President Ronald Reagan urging him to reconsider his opposition to an international conference.

"The president thinks, and I have known this for a few days, that it may be worthwhile to examine this course, of an international conference," Mr. Shamir said in an Israeli Radio interview from Paris. He is on a visit to France.

Mr. Shamir told reporters after meeting French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac Monday that the French premier did not believe a Middle East peace conference would ever be held.

The outspoken Likud Party leader went on to say Mr. Chirac had questioned Israel's hostility to the idea, saying: "Who do you oppose something which is not realistic?"

Iraq says new Iranian attack foiled

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Tuesday its forces repelled an Iranian attack on the Gulf war's northern front, inflicting heavy casualties.

"Most of the two Iranian battalions which participated in the attack were wiped out," a military spokesman told the Iraqi News Agency (INA). He said 39 Iranian army vehicles and their occupants were destroyed.

Iran claimed Tuesday it beat off eight Iraqi counter-attacks and captured a swathe of territory as it pressed an offensive on the northern front, some 320 kilometres north of Baghdad.

In Washington, Charles Redman, the State Department spokesman, said Monday that "this latest Iranian offensive in Kurdistan, announced April 26, is similar to other initiatives in the area. It's a small-scale action on mountains of relatively insignificant strategic value."

Additionally, he noted that Iraq has announced that it has hunted the Iranian attacks.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz left Baghdad Tuesday for Moscow to discuss efforts to end the six-and-a-half-year-old Gulf war with Iran, INA said.

The agency said Mr. Aziz would be in the Soviet capital for several days.

It said the visit was part of an Arab League effort to resolve the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has repeatedly offered peace to Tehran's fundamentalist regime. But the Iranians have rejected them.

Moscow has been seeking to mediate an end to the war. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, who visited the Gulf region earlier this month, called for a meeting of foreign ministers of the U.N. Security Council nations to seek an end to the conflict.

Abdul Rahman said in Tunis: "We are very sorry for this Egyptian decision because the offices of the PLO are offices serving the Palestinian community."

He said, without giving a date, that the Egyptian move would be discussed at the next meeting of the 15-member PLO Executive Committee.

The PLO facilities involved in the Egyptian closure order included the main PLO office, which had near-diplomatic status, the office of the organisation's largest faction Fatah, the news agency Wafa and the Palestine Writers Union.

The offices of labour and women's unions as well as a major hospital operated by the Palestinian Red Crescent and headed by the PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's brother Dr. Fathy Arafat remain open.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Meguid announced on Monday that Cairo had decided to close all PLO offices in Egypt. He said the break was in response to a resolution by the PNC restricting the organisation's contacts with Egypt because of its 1979 treaty with Israel.

The council's action on Egypt cited as guidance a 1983 resolution that spurned ties with Cairo so long as the treaty it signed with Israel in 1979 remains in force. The measure also spoke of PLO support for "Egypt's nationalist, democratic and popular forces" to force Cairo to renounce the 1978 Camp David accords that served as a basis for the treaty.

An Egyptian cabinet minister, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AP that Cairo considered this an insult and "hazards interference" in Egypt's domestic affairs.

Israel praised Egypt for closing the PLO offices.

In Washington the United States administration said Monday that the PNC decisions were not encouraging for peace hopes in the Middle East.

"The search for peace in the Middle East will go forward," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman.

But he added that from what the United States had learned about the results of last week's meeting of the council, "they are not encouraging. As the forgotten victims of the turmoil and violence in the region, the Palestinian people would be among the prime beneficiaries of a peace settlement."

At the United Nations, the Arab League's U.N. observer said the outcome of the PNC meeting had improved the prospects for a Middle East peace conference.

"We welcome the unity that has been articulated in the PLO," Ambassador Clovis Maksud told a news conference.

Soviet treaty proposes scrapping Euromissiles

GENEVA (Agencies) — A Soviet draft treaty calls for scrapping all U.S. and Soviet medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles in Europe, Alexei Obukhov, a senior Soviet negotiator said on Tuesday.

Mr. Obukhov, who presented the draft to U.S. negotiators on Monday, said Moscow wanted all Soviet SS-20s and U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe dismantled as well as all superpower shorter-range nuclear missiles.

"We are aware that we are facing difficult work, given the American approach, which contains a number of patently unconstructive elements," he said.

He believed a treaty could be signed this year.

The Soviet Union insists that the nuclear warheads on West German missiles must go before a pact is reached on the shorter-range weapons, Mr. Obukhov said.

West Germany has some 72 Pershing-2 shorter-range missiles, according to Western statistics. The nuclear warheads are controlled by the United States, while the missiles are controlled by West Germany.

Mr. Obukhov, answering a question, indicated that the missiles would not have to be dismantled under a U.S.-Soviet agreement.

Western officials have indicated that the Pershing-1 missiles were not an issue in the Geneva talks.

Mr. Obukhov said the draft treaty was 11 or 12 pages long, with several additional pages of annexes and memoranda. It contained a substantial section on measures to verify against cheat-

ing on an accord.

"In certain areas our approach (on verification) is even stricter than the Americans," he told reporters during a news conference at the Soviet diplomatic mission in Geneva.

The Soviet treaty would permit on-site inspection of the dismantling of missiles, of their destruction, of private or state-owned missile factories and of test ranges and military bases, including those in third countries.

Many of the medium and shorter-range missiles covered in the draft are stationed either in Warsaw Pact states or on the territory of NATO allies in Western Europe.

The United States presented its draft treaty on medium and shorter-range missiles during a previous round of superpower arms talks in March.

Both treaties call for eliminating all 270 triple-warhead Soviet SS-20 missiles and all 316 single-warhead U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Europe.

Both permit each side to keep 100 warheads on medium-range missiles outside Europe, with U.S. missiles confined to U.S. territory and Soviet missiles confined to Soviet Central Asia.

These medium-range missiles can travel 1,000 to 5,000 kilometres.

The Soviet draft calls also for scrapping all shorter-range U.S. and Soviet missiles in Europe.

"We propose that no such Soviet and American missiles be stationed in Europe," he said. "Equal levels for Soviet and U.S. operational-tactical (shorter-range) missiles would be established on a global basis (outside of Europe)."

Hematologists at the University Hospital said the transplanted bone-marrow was taken from Mr. Harb's iliac bone — one of the three pelvic bones — and was returned to him intravenously after it was purified and chemically processed.

International standings for the success of such an operation is put between 45 and 75 per cent, and Mr. Harb stands an excellent chance, said Dr. Abadi. He could not give the success percentage of Mr. Harb's surgery saying that "a longer time needs to be given" in order to determine the success of the transplant through follow-ups and aftercare.

Dr. Abdullah Oweidi Al Abadi, a veteran hematologist at the University of Jordan Hospital, headed the eight-member medical team during the almost two-and-a-half-hour transplant.

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He said the government was waiting for a full report from the Austrian ambassador in Washington, who arrived back in Vienna on Tuesday after being ordered home for consultations.

The Soviet Union sprung to the defence of Dr. Waldheim, condemning as an unfriendly act the U.S. decision.

"The Washington authorities have taken an unfriendly act against the president of the Austrian republic, Kurt Waldheim, who from 1972 to 1982 held the post of United Nations secretary-general," the official news agency TASS said.

"The basis for the refusal was the fact that, during World War II, Waldheim was called to military service by the Hidentites in annexed Austria and served in the Wehrmacht as a translator," TASS said.

"It is well-known that, as U.N. secretary-general, Waldheim actively worked for a Middle East settlement, and this angered Zionist circles in the United States, who have recently mounted a provocative campaign against him."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the United States had acted rightly in deciding to ban Dr. Waldheim.

Mr. Shamir, on the second day of an official visit to France, told Reuters in Paris the move "was not surprising."

"The American administration did the right thing," he said.

Waldheim says there could be no proof he did wrong

VIENNA (Agencies) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim said Tuesday there could be no proof he was guilty of wrongdoing during World War II and he demanded the right not to be accused in the absence of evidence.

"I have a clean conscience," the 68-year-old former U.N. chief said in a recorded television statement, responding to a ban imposed by the United States on his entry into the country as a private citizen.

Dr. Waldheim went on: "Let me state as firmly as I can that there can be no evidence of culpable behaviour."

The government earlier Tuesday criticised the United States for barring Dr. Waldheim and rejected as not proven charges he had a role in Nazi atrocities.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky told a news conference that the process used by Washington to reach its decision "is one that cannot be followed by the Austrian people and the Austrian government and is therefore incomprehensible."

"The known charges against President Kurt Waldheim are not proven and are therefore rejected," Mr. Vranitzky said, reading a government statement.

"The federal government will take all steps to protect the head of state... from unjustified accusations," he said. Asked if this meant Austria will take legal action against the United States, Mr. Vranitzky said it was too early to reply.

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Australia considers response to Iran's expulsion of diplomats

CANBERRA (R) — Iran has expressed its annoyance at an Australian television sketch lampooning Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini by expelling two Australian diplomats, a Foreign Affairs Department spokesman said Tuesday.

The Australian ambassador in Tehran informed Canberra late Monday night that Senior Trade Commissioner John Gurr and Senior Administrative Officer David Poulter had been told to leave Iran within 72 hours.

Iranian authorities said the satire defamed Islam and Iranian values.

Canberra is now considering its response to the expulsions, but ministers and officials were not talking of retaliation.

"I'm a bit out of the mould of the conventional diplomat for a politician, but I generally feel that it's not fair to take things very far," Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said on television.

Later, on the steps of parliament, Mr. Hayden was questioned by journalists about the possibility of retaliation and replied: "What can we do? Not much."

Earlier a Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "We are considering what our reaction will be, if anything."

The spokesman said the government had made no official protest to Iran, adding that it saw no reason to summon the Iranian ambassador who had first complained about the sketch.

Mr. Hayden said there were also trade aspects to be considered.

"We have over 300 million dollars (\$200 million) worth of exports with that country, about three-quarters of which is wheat. So there is a sensitive element about this particular matter."

Iran takes nearly 10 per cent of Australia's total wheat exports.

Senior Trade Department officials warned retaliation could have serious ramifications for the beleaguered wheat sector, already hit by low international prices and a dwindling market share.

In December 1982, the Australian government ordered two Iranian diplomats to leave the country in retaliation for the expulsion of two of its diplomats.

Mr. Hayden said he had expected the Iranians might react with expulsions to the sketch on last Monday's satirical programme "The Dingo Principle" transmitted by the state-owned Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

The latest row is the third in a series of cultural clashes between Iran and what is regarded as humour in the Western world.

In February, Iran ordered out two West German diplomats after a television satire depicted Khomeini being showered with women's underwear.

Tehran also expelled three Italian diplomats and closed an Italian cultural centre last November in another incident involving a television programme considered insulting by Iran.

The Australian sketch, described as "rude" by the Iranian ambassador, included a mock interview with Khomeini by a veiled woman reporter which ended with the Iranian revolutionary leader threatening to "blow up the world."

Asked whether Iranians were lacking a sense of humour, Mr. Hayden said: "It depends on what you think is funny. I haven't seen the show but people I have spoken to thought it was rather clumsy and laboured."

The minister said he would view the offending programme later Tuesday.

Mr. Hayden reiterated that the government had no control over the ABC's programme schedule or the media in general, but he made a veiled appeal to journalists to act responsibly.

"I am not making any threats or making any requests, I am just making what I think is a balanced assessment of what could happen."

"We don't control the media so the media will have to determine how it handles this sort of matter in future," the minister said.

ABC, which slammed the Iranians over the weekend for having no sense of humour, was Tuesday contrite.

The network's Managing Director David Hill said: "The ABC does not set out deliberately to offend. Obviously I am concerned that we have not only offended the Iranians but that the segment has had the effect of upsetting Australia's relations with that country."

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from Tehran of two of its diplomats. Iran gave no reason for these expulsions.

Mr. Hayden said he had expected the Iranians might react with expulsions to the sketch on last Monday's satirical programme "The Dingo Principle" transmitted by the state-owned Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

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U.S. team reviews Israeli material on Iran deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel allowed congressional investigators to review a report on its role in the Iran arms deal. But Israel refused to allow the documents to be taken from its embassy without assurances of confidentiality and immunity, officials said.

An Israeli official confirmed that Israel was seeking a promise of confidentiality from the investigators. The official, who asked not to be identified, said similar negotiations were being conducted with the office of independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh, who is investigating the Iran-contra affair.

The Washington Post, in its Tuesday edition, reported that Israel also is seeking limited immunity for Israelis involved in the arms sales.

Investigators had sent Israel a letter asking for material including a chronology of events in the clandestine arms shipments, said a congressional committee official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In other developments in the Iran-contra affair:

The Senate Intelligence Committee said it is recalling FBI Director William Webster to testify at its confirmation hearing to become head of the CIA. The committee wants to question Mr. Webster about FBI contacts with former White House aide Lt. Col. Oliver North, a central figure in the Iran arms sales.

Former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane said he warned President Ronald Reagan soon after his return from a trip to Iran in 1986 that the Iranians were interested only in weapons, not "meaningful dialogue."

Mr. McFarlane travelled secretly to Tehran in an attempt to close an arms-for-hostages deal, but the deal fell through when the Iranians refused to guarantee that all U.S. hostages in Lebanon would be released, according to the Tower Commission report.

The Israeli report was reviewed at that nation's embassy by John Nields, chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Iran, Arthur Liman, his counterpart on the Senate committee, and George Van Cleave, deputy minority counsel of the House panel, the committee official said.

The official said the three concluded that "Israel provided what we asked for."

However, they were not permitted to take the documents out of the building. The committee official said the investigators were still negotiating with the Israelis over "the terms of use of the documents."

The financial records involve three shipments of U.S. anti-tank Hawk missiles and anti-air.

Ramadan begins in some Arab states

Arab leaders send cables of good wishes to King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has received cables of good wishes from kings and heads of state of Arab and friendly countries, marking the start of the holy month of Ramadan. The cables came from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan of Morocco, Sultan Qaboos of Oman, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar, Sheikh Issa bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain, North Yemeni President Ali Abd Abdullah Saleh, Sudanese President Ahmad Al Mirghani, head of the ruling council in South Yemen,

Haidar Al Attas, and the head of the higher state council in the United Arab Emirates, Hamid bin Rashid.

The month of Ramadan, during which fasting by Muslims is observed during daytime, was announced by chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan in Amman Monday evening. All through the month liquor stores, bars and nightclubs in the Kingdom are closed and food is served in restaurants and hotels only in the evening.

Government offices during Ramadan will open from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Tunisian foreign minister ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Hadi Al Mabrouk left Amman for home Tuesday at the end of a three-day official visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Mr. Mabrouk also held talks with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, and senior government officials, on current Arab affairs, the Middle East issue, including efforts for convening an international Middle East peace conference. The talks also dealt with measures to bolster Jordanian-Tunisian relations an economic cooperation.

In a statement before his departure, Mr. Mabrouk said that his visit and talks in Amman had been fruitful. The two sides discussed coordinating Jordanian-Tunisian policies and held consultations on promoting bilateral relations in all fields, the minister said.

He said that the two sides agreed on measures to further bilateral cooperation in trade and other economic areas, and to stimulate tourism and air transport between the two countries.

Mr. Mabrouk described bilateral relations as close, and predicted continued good relations.

On the last day of his visit, the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan confers with Tunisian Foreign Minister Hadi Al Mabrouk on Tuesday (Petra photo)

Tunisian minister was received by Prince Hassan with whom he reviewed Arab issues and means to enhance Tunisian-Jordanian ties, especially in developmental and cultural affairs. He also met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Tuesday and Mr. Masri and reviewed with them developments in Arab affairs and in the Middle East question, focussing on efforts for finding a just and comprehensive settlement for the Palestine issue.

Mr. Rifai said at the meeting that peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East except within the

framework of an international conference that should be attended by all parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Mr. Mabrouk expressed his country's support for Jordan's efforts at achieving peace.

Upon his departure from Queen Alia International Airport, the Tunisian minister was seen off by Mr. Masri and other Jordanian officials. A joint statement was due to be issued in Amman and Tunis Tuesday evening covering Mr. Mabrouk's talks.

Jordan, UAE sign agreement on cooperation in agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Tuesday signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in agriculture. Under the agreement, the two countries will launch technical cooperation in agriculture-related areas, including animal husbandry, food production, and farm equipment, in order to promote agricultural development in both countries.

Jordan will provide the UAE with expertise to help the UAE promote its agriculture sector. Both sides are scheduled to exchange officials, experts and technicians.

Jordan and UAE will organize periodic seminars and training courses in agriculture, will exchange information related to agriculture, and co-publish booklets on agriculture.

Both sides agreed to study implementing joint investment projects for producing agricultural commodities. They also decided to set up a joint agricultural committee that will meet once a year to examine ways of providing basic foodstuffs. The committee will also meet periodically to study ways of increasing bilateral

agricultural cooperation. The agreement does not contravene other accords on agricultural cooperation signed by either country with other Arab countries or with regional and international organizations. Also, cancellation of this agreement should not affect the implementation of projects already agreed to under the accord.

The agreement will be valid for five years and will go into force once both sides exchange documents, and will be renewed automatically, unless either party informs the other of its decision to cancel it within three months of the expiration date.

The agreement was signed for Jordan by Agriculture Minister Marwan Al Hmoud and for the

UAE by Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Sa'id Al Ruqbani.

Prince Hassan meets with UAE minister

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred with Mr. Ruqbani. The minister conveyed to Prince Hassan greetings from Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE president.

Prince Hassan reviewed with the UAE minister agricultural cooperation between Jordan and the UAE and prospects for expanding such cooperation. Mr. Hmoud attended the meeting.

Later, the UAE minister was received by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali, with whom he reviewed Jordanian-UAE relations. Mr. Majali emphasized Jordan's readiness to increase the level of cooperation between the two countries in agriculture and in exchange of experts.

On Monday, the UAE minister was accompanied by Mr. Hmoud on a tour of agricultural projects in the Kingdom.

The UAE minister later left Amman concluding his visit.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Governors prepare lists of voters

AMMAN (Petra) — Provincial governors have embarked on drawing up lists of voters for parliamentary elections in implementation of instructions issued by the government on Saturday. Ramtha District Governor Khalaf Mahasneh said that 12 voting centres have been assigned and several committees have been set up to supervise the registration of voters, adding that these committees will assume their task in the coming month. In Mafrqa Governorate, election committees will start registering voters names on May 3, according to governor Fayez Ahbadi. He said voters will be casting ballots at 44 voting centres.

Kanaan, Dajani inspect Irbid sports city

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani Tuesday visited the site of a project to construct Al Hassan sports city in Irbid. The two ministers inspected the progress of work on this project and the stages completed. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the Chinese government and is expected to cost JD 9 million. The project, expected to be completed in two years, will include a sports stadium seating 15,000, in-door sports halls and swimming pools in addition to other basic facilities.

Hamzeh holds meeting on cancer centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held at Al Bashir government hospital in Amman Tuesday to discuss the work of the hospital's cancer centre. The meeting, chaired by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, who is chairman of the centre's council, discussed registration of cancer patients prior to plans for treatment. The council set up a committee made up of council members to draw up plans for registration and treatment. The minister instructed officials to provide the centre with equipment and other materials necessary for the treatment of cancer. The meeting was attended by representatives of Jordan University Hospital, the Royal Medical Services, the private sector and the Health Ministry.

ACC extends loans for 77 projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has decided to grant Jordanian farmers loans totalling JD 327,480 to help them finance 77 agricultural projects. This includes the purchase of three harvesters. The ACC board of directors also approved loans for housing units benefiting ACC employees. The loans will amount to JD 22,615. With the new loans, the ACC has granted farmers JD 1,746,000 since the beginning of 1987 to help finance 428 agricultural projects in the Kingdom.

Ministry to take part in int'l law talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Ministry will take part in the meetings of the international law committee which will be held in Geneva on May 4. The two-day meetings will discuss introducing amendments to the international law on maritime trade.

Archaeologists complete dig at Ayla

AQABA (Petra) — An archaeology team from Chicago University and led by Dr. Donald Whitcomb has completed excavation works at the Islamic city of Ayla, the old name for Aqaba city. Dr. Whitcomb said that during the excavations, carried out in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, the team found several pottery pieces and pots. He added that the team will carry more excavations next year at other sites. Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) Secretary General Duraid Mahasneh presented the ARA shield to Dr. Whitcomb and to Dr. Ghazi Bishi from the Department of Antiquities in appreciation for their efforts.

RJ thanks travel agents

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian airline (RJ) director general Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz has presented certificates to 15 Jordanian travel and tourism agents in appreciation for their efforts in serving tourism and travel in Jordan. The presentations were made during a dinner banquet hosted by RJ Deputy Director General for Marketing and Sales Ghazwan Ghassan Ali at the Gateway Hotel. Mr. Balqaz urged the participants to intensify their efforts to support tourism in Jordan. Mr. Ali also explained the facilities which RJ offers to tourists.

AARRO group tours bedouin settlement projects

KARAK (Petra) — Delegations who took part in the Arab-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) Tuesday made a field trip to a number of agricultural and industrial projects in southern Jordan.

The tour started with a visit to Qatraneh where bedouin tribes have been settled. The delegates were briefed on the role of the Ministry of Agriculture in the reclamation of land, and the training of citizens in modern agricultural methods and techniques. The ministry, the delegates were told, has distributed land to the bedouins to cultivate it and to settle them in the area.

Dr. Mukhlis Ammarin, director of agriculture in Karak Governorate, said that the new settlers have displayed skill in cultivating their lands and growing different types of crops. In accordance with the agricultural pattern system introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Jordanian government has implemented three projects for settling bedouins in the Qatraneh region and Wadi Al Ahdad on 2,300 dunams of land; each lined with an agricultural cooperative society, Dr. Ammarin said. He said that 88 farmers and their families benefit from these projects. He said that the government has set up housing units and drilled six artesian wells to help the bedouin settle and irrigate their land.

Mr. Abid Burqan, director of the AARRO office in Amman, voiced the delegations' appreciation for the Jordanian government's efforts in developing rural and hadia regions of the Kingdom.

Participating countries in the AARRO meeting include Ethiopia, India, Egypt, Mauritius, Libya, Yemen, Morocco, Iraq, China, Turkey, Ghana, Malaysia, Japan and Jordan.

Hamzeh, doctors' union review regional health conditions

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Tuesday met with members of the Arab Doctors' Union in the presence of Dr. Mamdouh Al Ahbadi, president of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA).

They reviewed health conditions in the Arab World, cooperation between the union and the Arab Health Ministers' Council and the role of medical associations in promoting programs carried out by health ministries in the Arab World.

Dr. Hamzeh underlined the role of the medical associations in Arabising textbooks on medicine in accordance with recommendations issued by the Arab Health

Ministers' Council. The Arab Doctors' Union board ended a meeting in Amman on Monday evening after discussing subjects pertaining to work of the union and its role in promoting cooperation among various Arab countries.

The board endorsed topics on the agenda of the 24th Arab medical conference to be held in Cairo on Jan. 19, 1988 during which working papers will be reviewed and medical research studies considered by different delegates. The board also decided to take part in the Arab-Spanish medical conference which will be held in Spain during October.

Pan-Arab companies call for closer coordination with AOID

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day meeting organised by the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID), to discuss means of promoting the work of pan-Arab companies ended on Tuesday with recommendations calling for steps to be taken for carrying out schemes proposed by the AOID.

The delegates said a pan-Arab committee grouping AOID and two other pan-Arab companies should be formed to follow up promotion for these schemes and

to raise funds and undertake technical measures for their implementation.

They recommended that the AOID concert efforts with other Arab organisations for studying investment climates in different Arab countries. Altogether 14 pan-Arab companies took part in the meeting, designed to arrive at a practical formula, enabling Arab countries to work together and make pan-Arab industrial schemes achieve success.

IPU delegates hold talks

MANAGUA (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meetings, which opened here on Monday held contacts and side meetings with Arab delegations taking part in the union conference.

The Arab delegations also held side meetings to review a draft resolution on the Middle East question and decided to nominate Mr. Rizek Al Batineh, the Jordanian member of the delegation, to serve on the drafting committee. Delegates of Islamic

countries held a meeting and looked into means of achieving solidarity among Islamic nations and solving their problems.

The topics on the conference agenda were discussed by delegates from Non-Aligned Movement nations and were addressed by Mr. Batineh on the Middle East question. The movement issued a statement in which it announced its decision and determination to thwart Israel's attempts to bring about emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

By Mary West
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Sex discrimination in Jordan begins at birth, particularly among low-income communities where a baby boy has a far better chance of surviving his first three years than a baby girl, according to two surveys carried out to assess the health and population characteristics of five low-income urban squatter areas of Amman, both before and after they were upgraded by the Urban Development Department (UDD).

The first survey, carried out in 1980-81, was a baseline study which registered details of the families in the target communities. The second survey, completed in 1985, was a follow-up, which assessed the changes that had taken place, and measured the impact of the UDD's upgrading projects on the health and welfare of those communities.

The findings of the second survey have been described, and compared with the findings of the baseline survey in a recently published report: "Health and Population in Squatter Areas of Amman: A Reassessment after Four Years of Upgrading," prepared by Dr. Hisham Zaigba, director general of the UDD, and Dr. Leila Bisharat, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) regional adviser on urban planning.

for age) of the girls was found to be markedly lower than that of the boys. Boys are more likely to be breastfed than girls, and for longer periods. The kind of food given to boys at home is better, both in quantity and quality, than that given to girls.

In health matters, mothers are less conscientious about taking their daughters to be immunised. When baby girls become ill, they are brought for medical attention much later than boys. Girl patients in hospitals are usually in a worse condition than boys because boys are brought in at an earlier stage of their illness. An examination of cases of severe dehydration from diarrhoea at a local oral rehydration therapy clinic showed that the majority of severe cases were girls — boys suffering from dehydration were brought in much earlier and their nutritional status was better to begin with.

Lower rates in a better environment

In the four years since the upgrading began in 1981, the rates of infant and child mortality in the target communities dropped dramatically as a result of the improvements to the en-

vironment. The infant mortality rate (those who die before their first birthday) fell from an average of 68 per thousand live births to 55 per thousand. The child mortality rate (those who die before their third birthday) fell from 86 to 63 per thousand. These figures show a decline five times greater than could have been expected from the trend of decline in infant and child mortality rates in Jordan as a whole.

A closer look at the rates for each sex, however, reveals serious differences in the life chances of boys and girls. The figures show that out of every 1,000 boys born, 40 may be expected to die before their first birthday, whereas out of every 1,000 girls born, 62 may be expected to die before their first birthday. The child mortality figures show that 46 per thousand boys and 78 per thousand girls may be expected to die before their third birthday.

The facts show that boys have gained far more from the improvements of the upgrading projects than girls, and that if girls were given the same care as boys, the infant mortality rates in the upgraded areas could drop by 25 per cent.

RSCN opens centre for visitors to Azraq oasis

AZRAQ (Petra) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Tuesday opened an information centre for visitors to the Azraq oasis. The centre was established by Al Shomari wild life reserve with help from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Rotary Club of Amman.

The centre is designed to orient the visitors on the objectives and activities of the society, to promote tourism, and to inform vis-

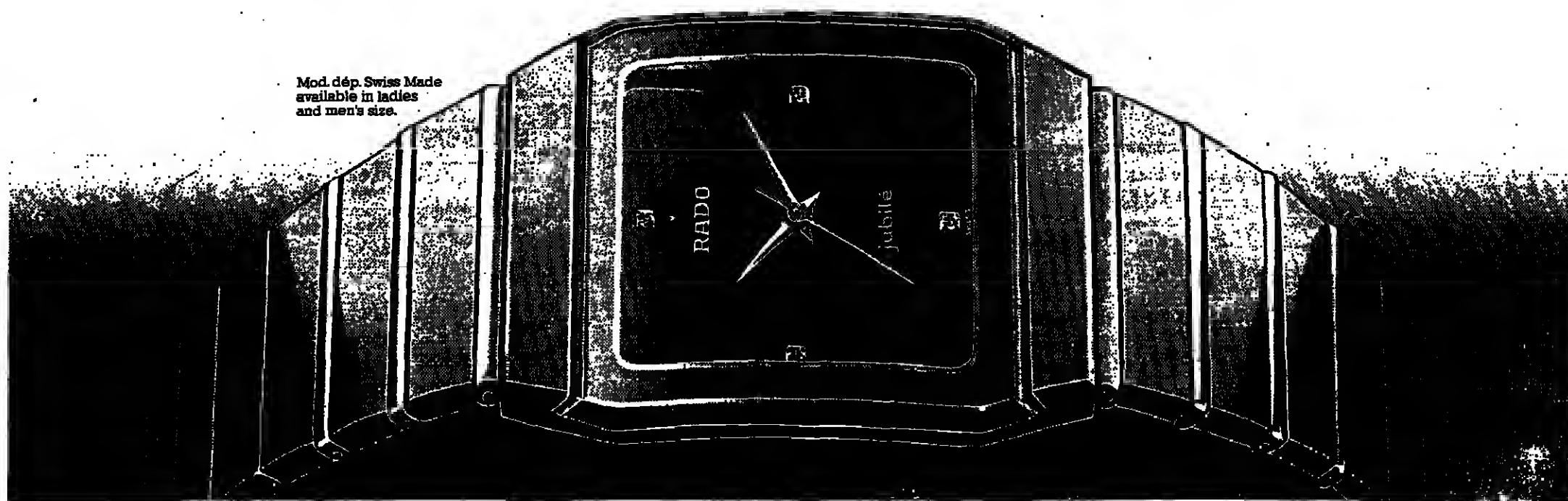
tors about the wild life reserve's fauna and flora.

The centre consists of two halls; one displays photos of the wildlife in the area, maps, and studies of the area's history, the other provides space for lectures and audio-visual presentations, and can accommodate 60 visitors.

RSCN president Anis Muasher opened the centre during a ceremony attended by local officials, representatives of USAID and the Rotary Club in Amman.

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The Jordanian Construction Contractors Association

Reagan and his arms trade with Iran

By Leo Mates

RONALD Reagan's last two years in the White House are turning into a painful experience and it is less and less likely that he may rid himself of the weight of the affair surrounding the arms deal with Iran. Even the name given to the affair, "Iranagate," is ominous in itself, although the similarities with Nixon's troubles are superficial rather than essential. The latest turn the investigation has taken and, especially, the Tower Commission's report indicates in the first place that this is only the beginning and that the affair will mark the final stage of Reagan's term of office in the White House.

Reagan, like many of his predecessors, obviously intended to use his second term as president for securing for himself a prominent place in American history. He sought to achieve this primarily by his activity on the international scene. The method he chose was chiefly determined by the state of world affairs, but perhaps even more so by his personal ambitions and inclinations. Let us not forget that in the election campaign for entry into the White House he had declared as a high priority restoring the prestige and power of the United States in world politics. The choice of objectives reflected the general mood, based on reality. The way these problems were approached in the election campaign reflected his own ideas, and was essentially naive.

Reagan adopted an extremely tough and superior attitude to the Soviet Union; to the less powerful countries he promised the full restoration of the United States' one-time superiority. Such a foreign-policy line was at odds with the real state of affairs and real possibilities. The Soviet Union was an equal rival — another superpower. America's attitude to it could not reasonably be based on the threat of American military power, especially not after the established approximate parity of nuclear arsenals. On the other hand, the Americans and, especially, Reagan, were irritated by their obvious impotence vis-à-

vis the "defiant" less powerful countries such as Iran and then also Lebanon over the hostage issue. But neither here could the old relations be maintained any longer.

Nonetheless, pursuing his own inclinations, Reagan started action on the international scene with a large measure of self-assurance; in due course, however, he took a softer line to the Soviet Union. He was compelled to start negotiations, a method which did not suit his character. This resulted in all sorts of embarrassment, most notably the confusion in Reykjavik. But what we are really interested in here is that other aspect — the effort to assert a traditional superiority over the less powerful countries, among them Iran and Lebanon.

Reagan just could not push out of the centre of his preoccupations the question of hostages. After the series of heavy blows his policy had suffered in Lebanon and heavy loss of American lives, Reagan's concern increased for the lives of the Americans who were still in the hands of their ruthless kidnappers. This was unbearable for him for two reasons. Firstly, it handicapped American policy and indicated its impotence. Secondly, it called into question his own credibility abroad and at home. It showed him to be unable to fulfil his primary promise.

As can be seen from the Tower report, the hostages' release was undoubtedly the primary and chief motive for venturing into negotiations with the circles around Rafsanjani in Tehran. Reagan subsequently tried to divert attention from that topic and insisted that the motive had been an effort to establish better understanding with "moderate" circles in Iran. This flight from the chief motive caused after the failure of the entire operation but before it became a public affair. As soon as it was shown that hostages could be a good counter-value, a genuine hunt for hostages began in Beirut. This trade was therefore publicly condemned long before it was public-

cised. Reagan himself denounced it publicly at the time.

The attempt to influence Iranian policy through the sale of arms to Iran likewise failed. It merely strengthened Iran's position in the war with Iraq, which again nettled America's Arab friends. This effect was achieved in two ways. First, Iran's armed power was increased through a supply of modern arms and spare parts. Secondly, fearing even a modest effect of that policy, the Soviet Union was prompted to renew its own earlier attempts at a rapprochement with Iran. However, when word of the arms deliveries got round, they had to be explained in some way. It seemed it would be better to acknowledge as the motive the abortive diplomatic move rather than endanger American lives by instigating a hunt for more hostages.

Subsequent developments followed their own logic. First the Iranians themselves for reasons of their own, disclosed McFarlane's and North's mission. The existence of a trade in arms was thus discovered. After the attempt simply to deny the whole thing failed it became necessary to explain the motives and then also to assign the responsibility for the failure. It was precisely the question of responsibility that was the most difficult for Reagan. It threatened to shatter his dream of going down in history as a "great" president who had increased America's power and glory. To make things worse, this happened only a short while after Reagan's first pass in relations with the Soviet Union. Namely, he had agreed to a summit which was not really that. In Reykjavik, the two leaders should have prepared their "real summit." Unprepared or ill-prepared, Reagan got lost in the maze of problems and proposals and then caused the talks to break up abruptly.

The dialogue was resumed later on, thanks to the fact that a break did not suit Gorbachev either. But Reagan's failure remained as a blemish on the list of

his moves. Little by little, the abortive mission in Reykjavik came to be blamed on the poor organisation in the White House. This facilitated a similar explanation of the subsequent failure of the deal with Tehran. In any event, the organisation in the White House was chaotic as shown by the Tower report as well.

In short, the explanation was that Reagan had known nothing about the expedition to Tehran and arms deliveries until this was a fait accompli. But, allegedly, not even then was he familiar with the whole truth. This explanation, too, was harmful for Reagan's reputation because in politics mistakes are more easily forgiven than incompetence. For Reagan himself, everything seemed to be better than an admission that by his naive policy he had impeded American lives, especially after the devastating losses in Lebanon.

But Reagan had no inkling that the Tower report, apart from exposing the chaotic organisation, would call into question the truthfulness of his contentions about what he had known of the whole affair and when he acquired such knowledge. The report, in fact, presented as the most likely version that he had approved the deal with Tehran beforehand. After this report, Reagan will necessarily await with anxiety the following reports which will not confine themselves to investigating orderliness in the administration but will examine the political and legal responsibilities.

These reports, irrespective of the details of all the aspects of the affair, will undoubtedly cast a shadow stretching throughout the remainder of Reagan's term of office in the White House. Public opinion polls show that the affair has already left a deep mark on American voters. In the end much harm will have been done to both Reagan's image as an aspirer to a place in history and to that of the Republican Party, i.e., of its candidates for the 1988 election. How much the Democrats will profit from that is hard

to tell. That will depend to a great extent on overall developments until the election. After all, one should not forget that internal development and well-being are the electorate's most important motive.

It still remains to examine the historical context of this entire course of development around Reagan. As was said in the beginning, the problems arose in the context of overall developments in the world in the first place. Reagan's original motive was a desire to stop the weakening of American influence. But neither Carter nor anybody else were to blame for this trend which, indeed, had been brought on by the very logic of the balance of power in a nuclear era. Mutually mobilised, the two superpowers have lost much of their capacity to impose their will upon others. They are so afraid of each other's capability of bringing about total destruction that they have both been avoiding dangerous confrontations.

The familiar gunboat policy, applied in earlier times, has become ineffective. The powerful American guns from New Jersey, when stationed off the coast of Lebanon, only harmed America while their effect on events was equal to nothing. From the hostage crisis in Tehran to the latest ones in Lebanon the peculiar quality of nuclear potency or rather its impotence has been demonstrated very clearly. Consequently, Reagan's assumption that American influence in the world simply depended on the American president's determination was wrong from the start. Inevitably, so too was the conclusion that by a more energetic policy he could alter the prevailing state of affairs. His lack of consideration pointed out only too clearly the inherent limitations of the superpowers' influence.

The capability of the American nuclear armory to destroy the whole world is at once the cause of its impotence when it comes to situations such as the one it faced in Lebanon or in relations with Iran. Already the upshot of the

war in Vietnam had made this clear. Since then, the simultaneous potency and impotence of both superpowers has been confirmed in a number of confrontations between them, and even more so in conflicts with smaller countries. In that respect, the Soviet Union has fared no better than the United States.

This historical tendency by which the world's two most powerful armories cancel each other out has not yet quite penetrated the minds of people. That is how it happens that voters in America expect unrealistic results from their leaders. This phenomenon is more clearly apparent there because the voters periodically evaluate and elect their head of state. This greatly influences the electoral results and the leaders' own fate. Carter was a great disappointment to Americans. That was largely a result of domestic problems. But there is no doubt that the helplessness in the face of the kidnappers of U.S. diplomats in Tehran was experienced as a major defeat. It would have adversely affected public opinion in any case but coming shortly after the defeat in Vietnam it was a heavy blow, indeed.

Ronald Reagan was received as a ray of hope that his energy and resoluteness would overcome the "evil powers" and restore to America its position of power and awe. The disillusionment at the end of Reagan's second term of office will therefore probably lead to a new search for a candidate inspiring more hope that he will not involve America in fresh difficulties. That is why Reagan is trying to repair the damage caused to a maximum degree — primarily in relations with the Soviet Union, an area where the public likewise expects some positive results in international relations. The medium-range missile in Europe affords a welcome opportunity since after all their installation had been prompted, not by military needs, but by political speculation — Review of International Affairs, Belgrade.

Major hurdles ahead

SECRETARY of State George Shultz's recent visit to Moscow seems to have ironed out whatever major differences existed between the two superpowers regarding the prospects of reaching an accord on intermediate range nuclear missiles (INF) in Europe. What was hitherto a dampening factor in the whole negotiating process was the European fears of a possible INF accord that did not adequately take into account the Soviet numerical advantage in shorter range nuclear systems such as the SS-20 and SS-23s — those with a range of between 500-1,000 kilometres. The Soviet leader, Mr. Gorbachev, was appraised of this anxiety of the NATO allies during Shultz's visit and he has made an arms control proposal, designed to eliminate them from Europe. This proposal is being actively considered by the NATO powers.

Already a U.S. draft treaty on INF is on the table at Geneva, and the Soviets have presented another treaty calling for the elimination of all medium-range and short-range missiles from Europe. Since the Reykjavik summit last October, the pace of negotiations has moved quite fast in the direction of an INF accord. If ever by the end of the year an INF treaty comes into being, it would be unique in the sense that it would be the first arms control agreement between the superpowers that has effectively eliminated a particular category of nuclear weapon systems from their arsenal, instead of their trying to legitimise deployment of specific weapons at a certain level.

However, there is no reason for euphoria even if an INF agreement is ultimately signed between the two superpowers. The security dimensions of an INF accord are regional and limited: regional, because it is aimed at enhancing the security of the European nations, without diminishing global insecurity arising from the nuclear arms build-up of the rival blocs; limited, because the U.S. has still more than 4,000 nuclear weapons in Western Europe, in addition to the independent nuclear deterrent forces of Britain and France. Since the Soviets do have as much or more than that trained at Western Europe, the threat of nuclear annihilation in case of a war breaking out in Europe cannot be ruled out merely by the implementation of an INF accord.

We hope an INF agreement will be speedily reached in order to make it a stepping stone to further progress in nuclear disarmament. The superpowers cannot rest contented, unduly prolonging negotiations on medium range missiles in Europe, while thousands of their strategic triad — ICBMs, SLBMs and strategic bombers are posing great threat to world security. They have more serious and challenging work to do in the field of nuclear disarmament.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Undesirable break

THE Egyptian government has announced the closure of PLO offices in Cairo and said that the measure was in reaction to the PLO's attitude, expressed in the final statement of the Palestine National Council in Algiers. The council had left the task for the PLO's Executive Committee to determine future relations with Cairo, but since this committee is known to be against Egypt's Camp David agreements with Israel and to be in favour of re-establishing relations with Cairo only if the latter cancelled the treaty with Israel, Egypt had no choice but to take the initiative, and sever relations with the Palestinian leadership.

Despite this, we feel deeply sorry to see this relationship ending abruptly and causing tension between the two sides, and causing further splits among Arab countries. We look towards solidarity and unity of efforts and actions towards bolder an Arab summit meeting that will decide on means of confrontation with Israel and to resolve many of Arab problems.

We are deeply grieved to see these differences emerge at a time when the Algiers meeting witnessed a re-union among various Palestinian groups. We had hoped that the recent development will help concert Arab efforts for convening the proposed international Middle East conference which is now fully backed by the majority of world nations.

Al Dustour: New invasion in offing

THE present political crisis in Israel is further deepened by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rejection of the idea of an international peace conference. This crisis could find an outlet through a new act of aggression on the Arab Nation, probably on South Lebanon which currently witnesses an escalation of tension. What could move Israel to take such a step is the situation in South Lebanon which is now abounding with rockets directed on Israeli colonies and settlements, thus halting all Israel's dreams of ensuring peace and security for the Galilee.

To pave for its expected operation, Israel has been raiding Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon and launching attacks on Lebanese villages and imposing siege on coastal areas of Lebanon. Above all, southern Lebanon is witnessing a new anti-Israeli wave, with all the inhabitants determined to rid their country from occupation rule. This is also considered another motive for Israel to launch a new aggression in order to subdue the region and impose domination.

Sawt Al Shaab: What price unity?

NOW that the Palestine National Council (PNC) has concluded its meetings in Algiers we can sit back and contemplate the results of the deliberations which primarily focused on unifying the various groups of the Palestinian resistance movement. The first question to ask is whether the PLO has really achieved unity among its groups and factions and drawn up the broadlines for a unified Palestinian action? The second question is: was the price the PLO paid for such unity among the groups worth the sacrifice of relations with Arab countries specially Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Morocco? Thirdly: is the new PLO strategy directed towards serving the cause of the armed and political struggle for ending Israel's occupation of Palestine and ending Israel's settlement and colonisation programme in the occupied Arab territory?

We cannot say that unity has been achieved among the PLO groups by establishing contacts with three or four groups. The PLO's decision to abrogate the Amman accord served as a setback for the joint diplomatic effort for convening an international Middle East peace conference though it will overbar Jordan from going ahead with plans to hold such conference.

New Zealander turns British Labour's mastermind

By Brian Mooney
Reuter

LONDON — A New Zealand-born lawyer and diplomat says he turned to politics in shocked reaction to the British class system has become the mastermind in the opposition Labour Party's plans to oust Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Bryan Gould, 47, Labour's election campaign manager and a leading party spokesman on economic affairs, sees his colonial roots as a plus in Britain's inward-looking political world.

"There are positive advantages to being someone who takes a clearer view of society than somebody born and brought up in it," Gould told Reuters in an interview.

"It's much easier for me in a sense to judge what is required. I am not very conscious of my New Zealand roots but see that they must have an impact on my outlook," he said.

Gould, who settled in Britain after studying at university in New Zealand and spent four years as a diplomat in the British foreign service before taking a political career, even draws on his country's sporting image to promote his vision of Labour's bid for

power. He accepts comparisons with New Zealand's challenge for the America's Cup yachting trophy in which his native country came from nowhere, only to lose in the semi-finals.

"The image of the America's Cup is a quite favourable one in the sense that a relatively very small country managed a very credible challenge right up to the last minute," Gould said.

"What's important for us is to be in there contending. Providing we go into the election contending, we think we can make ground and attain our objective of an overall majority," Gould said.

Labour is currently languishing well behind the ruling Tories in opinion polls but Gould believes that the party can recover ground and overhaul the Conservatives once the political debate shifts to its policies in the run-up to the election which is widely expected either in June or the autumn.

Gould, one of a new generation under party leader Neil Kinnock who seek to shed Labour's cloth cap image and create a modern, moderate Socialism attractive to both middle and working class voters, sees this as his main task.

He played a key role in working on one of the major planks of Labour's election manifesto — a pledge to create a million new jobs within two years of taking office.

Gould, who is fond of cooking and inventing new dishes, says he was drawn to the Labour Party by the contrasts of extreme poverty and powerful wealth which he encountered in the 1960s when he first came to Britain which his family had originally left for New Zealand last century.

"I was already in a fairly radical frame of mind but when I arrived here I was exposed to a class based society and slum houses. It was an eye opener to me, and I moved very rapidly to Labour," Gould said.

He studied for a further degree in law at Oxford and finally committed himself to Labour when he saw what appeared to him to be an attempt by Britain's financial centre, the City of London, to sabotage the Labour government elected in 1964.

"I was outraged at what seemed to me to be the attempt by the City, the run on sterling and so on, to frustrate people, to overturn the decision of the electorate," Gould said.

Japanese pilots flexing defence muscles

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

ATSUGI, Japan. — At an old kamikaze base near Tokyo, young pilot pilots are flexing some of Japan's new defence muscle, taking their U.S.-built Onions out on 1,000-mile reconnaissance loops over the sea.

The computer-packed, anti-submarine F3C Onions can range 600 miles farther and fly 120 knots faster than the P2Js they replace. And by 1990 Japan will have 94 of them.

"They have enabled us to expand our operational scope," Capt. Toru Uchida, operations chief, told a reporter.

"We follow the Soviet Pacific fleet, the vessels, the movements," Uchida said. "... the purposes is to demonstrate our power."

That power, Japan's military strength, has grown steadily and quietly through the 1980s. But the quiet was broken four months ago when the conservative Liberal Democrats who govern Japan decided to boost defence spending above a longtime self-imposed limit — one per cent of gross national product.

The break with past policy has

delighted the Pentagon, aroused the political opposition in Japan and disturbed the Kremlin.

"It means further involvement of Japan in U.S. world strategy," Capt. Nikolai A. Usov, Soviet embassy naval attaché in Tokyo, complained in an interview. "Step by step, the military improvement of Japan is taking it in the direction of becoming a major military power."

By some measures, Japan is already there.

The Japanese work hard to preserve their image as a nation whose constitution renounces war as an instrument of policy. But their 1987 defence budget, \$23.2 billion, 58 per cent higher than in 1980, ranks them with the West Germans, French and British as big military spenders.

Explaining the buildup, Tokyo officials stress what they call the "threat from the north."

"The Soviet military presence in this part of the world has grown substantially since the mid-1970s," said Hiromoto Seki, director-general for international affairs at the Japanese Defence Agency.

In recent years the Soviets have enlarged their Pacific fleet, headquartered 650 miles northwest of

Atsugi in Vladivostok, and moved MG-23 warplanes and short-range missiles close to Japan, on four disputed northern islands seized from the Japanese at the end of World War II.

But less visible factors also underlie Japan's buildup.

For one, Seki said, the newly affluent Japanese "have more to defend than they used to, and they can now afford to support defence."

For another, U.S. forces in the Pacific have been spread thinner since taking on coverage of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf in the early 1980s.

A third reason suggested by some but officially denied on both sides: An expanded Japanese role counters criticism in the U.S. Congress that Tokyo is getting a "free ride" on defence while growing rich off trade surpluses with the United States.

Zenko Suzuki, then prime minister, took a first step in 1981 by committing Japan in principle to defending air and sea lines of communication up to 1,000 miles to the south and east — as far as Guam and the Philippines.

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Rediscovering the value of herbs

By George Nyembela

DAR-ES-SALAAM, Tanzania — Unable to finance the costly infrastructure of western scientific medicine, many developing countries are rediscovering the value of traditional healing. Tanzania has joined other African countries in identifying the curative qualities in herbs.

According to the Tanzanian Health Minister, Dr. Aeron Chiduo, the Medicine Research Unit at Muhimbili Hospital has established that beyond reasonable doubt there are 35 types of herbs that can produce useful drugs.

A good example is a plant known locally as "Mwarobaini" (or *azadirachta indica*, to give it its Latin name). Traditional healers say it is an all-round cure for a host of diseases. For a long time, it has been used to treat malaria and fever. Though the proper dosage for malaria has not yet been fixed, Mwarobaini has already been adopted by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Other herbs identified in Tanzania are *calendula officinalis*, for treating stomach aches, and *cinchona succubura*, used in quinine and chloroquine preparations. *Cynara scolymus* can help deal with vein problems, dogfates larvae for heart ailments and both *saponaria officinalis* and *tagetes patula* for blindness.

Experience with such natural drugs has given rise to the hope that if local medicines can be developed adequately, they will ease the pressure on the foreign exchange bills for importing drugs, as well as help spread medical care.

Moreover, researchers at the Dar-es-Salaam unit believe that powerful and more effective drugs might be produced from a

blend of traditional and modern medicines.

During the past decade, they have collected specimens and information about herbs and other materials used as medicines by traditional healers in both rural and urban areas. Now that an initial reluctance has been overcome, herbalists send medicinal samples to the research centre for pharmacological screening and testing.

The unit's director, Dr. Elmwaka Mshu, has been impressed with the results, but believes that the release of details regarding breakthroughs in treating ailments with local herbs should be done very carefully, or else it could lead to panic or disinformation.

In neighbouring Kenya, scientists are also using herbal knowledge in the search for antimalarial cures, downers and even safe contraceptives. The Mithumba herbal research unit at the University of Nairobi sends out staff to talk to herbalists and to collect samples from the field.

The chairman of the pharmacy department at the university, Dr. Gichuru Muriuki, says it is imperative that the identity of the exact species mentioned in folklore be identified scientifically, as medicinal potency differs from species to species.

Samples prepared are tried out on animals such as mice, rats, rabbits, cats and dogs. The researchers try to avoid experimenting on primates for the simple reason that they are expensive to keep. Dr. Muriuki says precautions are taken to ensure that animals used in experiments are not harmed by carcinogens or things which will inhibit growth.

Work in the laboratory has shown that contrary to popular belief, it is sometimes the crude herbal form that is more effective

against a given disease than purified versions, which can lose their effectiveness.

Dr. Muriuki has also discovered that patients are often more amenable to herbal remedies than to other medicines and that such remedies are more likely to work because people trust them.

The herbal research unit in Nairobi has been giving special attention to the use of herbal contraceptives and plants which can be employed during the birth process. Traditional midwives attending deliveries in Kenya's rural areas are known often to use herbs to accelerate the birth process or even to slow it down.

Dr. Muriuki says some plants contain steroids which can be used to sustain a pregnancy in the case of a threatened abortion.

In recent years, the WHO has shown a keen interest in African traditional medicines. International consultations on the subject have been held in the Sudan, Botswana, the Congo and Tanzania. The aim of these meetings was to evaluate related activities and to propose a mechanism for coordinating work in this field.

Four centres have been designated in Africa to concentrate on such work: the Universities of Lagos and Ife in Nigeria, the National Centre for Traditional Medicines in Bamako, Mali, and the Centre for Scientific Research in Plant Medicine at Mampong-Alawapin, Ghana.

However, there are a number of constraints on the wide dissemination of results, not least insufficient money. Moreover, Dr. Muriuki in Nairobi points out that multinational pharmaceutical companies are unlikely to invest their considerable know-how in furthering discoveries from which they cannot profit — Earthscan feature.

The car market moves into four-wheel drive

Increasing numbers of 4wd cars are joining the utility and leisure vehicles in this market segment. Kenneth Gooding discusses the explosive expansion that is making carmakers sit up.

LONDON — The sudden surge of interest in passenger cars with all-wheel drive capability has started a second phase of dynamic expansion in the market for light, four-wheel drive vehicles.

Some statistics help to illustrate the growth rate. In 1979 some 65,000 four-wheel drive vehicles, mainly of the utility type, were sold in Western Europe. Last year the total passed 317,000, half of them all-wheel drive cars.

According to Automotive Industry Data group forecasts, sales by 1991 will be close to 800,000, including 480,000 cars.

The first period of extraordinary expansion came during the 1970s in North America when a new type of customer appeared — one who was looking for a "leisure and fun" vehicle rather than a four-wheel drive workhorse.

Demand in the U.S. reached 1 million a year and captured the attention of the Japanese who were already well-established in the field. While most car manufacturers in the West did not bother with utility four-wheel drive vehicles but left the business to a few specialists, seven out of ten manufacturers were producing such vehicles.

The Japanese makers found that

four-wheel drive vehicles not only offered some useful extra volume for high-value components such as engines, but also gave them access to markets that would otherwise have remained closed.

For example, developing countries which would not permit the import of passenger cars because they were an unnecessary luxury, would allow in some four-wheel drive utility vehicles. This enabled the Japanese manufacturers to build up rudimentary dealer networks in readiness for the time when car imports might be started.

The Japanese were also ready, therefore, to take advantage of U.S. demand as it boiled up in the 1970s. The market began to fragment and to parallel the passenger car business in the variety of models available. These ranged from small runabouts offered by such companies as Daihatsu and Suzuki, through the workhorses represented by Land Rovers and Toyota Land Cruisers, to the executive-type Range Rover.

This was a far cry from the original concept: the wartime Jeep, a rough-and-ready but totally reliable all-terrain vehicle suitable for military use.

Military development played a big part in the early days of

four-wheel drive. The U.S. used vehicles of this type in 1916 in the Mexican war instead of mules.

It was not until June 1940, though, that the U.S. Army drafted a specification for an "ideal" four-wheel-drive, general-purpose vehicle and scout car. No fewer than 135 manufacturers were invited to bid but only two showed any interest and the contract went to one of them, Willys-Overland of Toledo, Ohio.

But the recent history of Jeep, the company which more or less started the four-wheel drive phenomenon, has been chequered. It was acquired by American Motors, fourth-largest and weakest of the U.S. car companies. It was caught off-guard both by the leisure boom and the subsequent oil supply crises in the 1970s which caused light four-wheel drive vehicle sales in the States to collapse from more than 1 million to 371,000 in 1981.

and a return to healthy demand in the States. Last year sales of light utility, all-wheel drive vehicles in the U.S. exceeded 1 million again and Jeep accounted for 207,515 of them.

By an odd quirk of fate, the futures of both Jeep and Land Rover are under consideration. American Motors is in the process of being bought by Chrysler, third-largest of U.S. car groups, from Renault of France which had a near 50 per cent shareholding and management control. Chrysler makes it clear that the now highly-profitable Jeep business is one of the main attractions of the deal because there is nothing like it within Chrysler's present organisation.

Meanwhile, Land Rover, which started producing its four-wheel drive vehicles in 1945 and today is part of the state-owned Rover Group, was to have been sold last year to General Motors

March 1980 when the Volkswagen group launched its Audi Quattro.

Subaru of Japan, looking for a niche in the competitive world car markets, had launched cars with all-wheel drive capability before 1980 but they attracted little attention. However, once the Audi Quattro began to win one rally after another, other European and Japanese manufacturers decided they must get in on the act — winning rallies is very good for a maker's image in some countries.

And "image" subsequently became an important element in the development of the four-wheel drive car market. While it makes sense to pay the premium for all-wheel drive in countries like Austria and Switzerland where winters are harsh and mountain roads can be steep and treacherous, there is no practical reason for investing in the capability in much of France and Italy.

But today no car maker in the world can ignore the trend. The reason is summed up by Mr. John May of Automotive Industry Data: "Four wheel drive has the potential to become the new status symbol of the late 1980s and early 1990s, possibly taking over where turbos and now 16-valve, and 24-valve engines are leaving off."

"The combination of functional advantages on one hand and image-related issues on the other are virtually certain to boost the demand for four-wheel drive cars to nearly 800,000 in 1991" — Financial Times feature.

The future of the wartime Jeep, a rough-and-ready but totally reliable all-terrain vehicle, is cast with serious doubts brought in by the new trend to turn to four-wheel drive cars.

At that point Japan overtook the U.S. as the major producer of light, four-wheel drive vehicles and Toyota and its Land Cruiser displaced American Motors-Jeep as the main individual producer. The Jeep business has clawed its way back to profitability, helped by the introduction of lighter and less-thirsty products

of the U.S., the world's largest automotive group.

But so great was the outcry that this famous British asset should be passed on to an American company that the U.K. government was forced to withdraw its offer.

The starting point for the four-wheel drive car boom came in

Slimmed-down Dolly Parton offers more of herself to fans

By John Pine

Reporter

LOS ANGELES — Dolly Parton has fun these days shocking fans and friends alike with her dramatically slimmed-down figure, but she says they will be seeing — and hearing — a lot more of her than ever before.

Parton still wears lots of make-up and the trademark bleached-blond wig she likens to haystacks, but at 41 she is just a shadow of her former self, the Dolly she calls the "fat old hog."

Wearing size zero cotton stretch pants with a snakeskin pattern, silver-studded black boots, a khaki blouse, earrings made of film negatives with the letters "L.A." exposed in white, and a modified spike hairdo, Parton looks 10 years younger than when she stuffed an exaggerated hour-glass figure into far more ample clothing.

"It's amazing. People are talking more about my waistline than my bustline these days," the singer and actress, who shed the pounds through her own diet of many mini-meals, told Reuters in an interview.

"I always said I had small feet and a small waist cause things don't grow in the shade, but you know I've lost a lot of weight, even in my boots. I've lost probably 40 to 50 pounds (18-22 kilograms) over a period of three years...."

"I've done it gradual and it's just kind of a drastic change for people. See, I'm a tiny little person, I'm only five one, five two, and when I was heavier I was just more exaggerated all over."

"And now I'm about this wide," she said, holding the long painted nails of two fingers slightly apart, "and people are saying, 'I cannot believe it.'"

To go along with her stunning sleek appearance and updated wardrobe, Parton has signed a two-year deal for a weekly television series, "The Dolly Parton Show," that will debut this autumn.

She also has a new recording contract that she hopes will please fans of both her country and her pop music.

Her new "Trio" album of traditional country songs that she recorded with old friends Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris is rising rapidly on the charts, and her "Dollywood" theme Park in Tennessee's Smoky Mountains begins its second season in May after having drawn 1.3 million paying visitors last year.

Parton, who recently completed a five-week tour of Australia with Kenny Rogers, says she feels better than ever and wants to do more of what she does best instead of waiting for an appropriate movie role to come along.

Her 1980 Hollywood debut in the farcical "9 to 5" with Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin, was a big hit. But she followed it up with two box office bombs — "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," with Burt Reynolds, and "Rhinestone," with Sylvester Stallone — that left her slightly shell-shocked.

She hasn't done another movie, although she said she would like to. Right now, she is excited about the television show.

"I miss being a performer. That's what I do best. I'm an entertainer, I'm a singer and I'm a writer," Parton said, occasionally primping her new wig in a mirror-covered wall of her penthouse office in west Hollywood.

"I love doing all the other things but I just can't fancy myself sitting out here for six, seven, eight months at a time waiting on that right script, and then you go and do it, and break your neck doing it, and it can turn out to be something like Rhinestone."

Parton, Fonda and Tomlin recently rejected a script that would have reunited them as a team of working women who break up an international spy ring.

"We all agreed that we not only have to have something as good as '9 to 5' we've got to have something better. So we just didn't feel the things we had was right," Parton said.

She plans to release a top album to coincide with the start of the TV show, and the new record contract will also give her a chance to do what she described as "one good, solid, thorough country album a year."

In the past, she said, she tried to "mix and match", trying to work some country music into her pop albums.

"The pop people don't like the country, the country people don't like the pop, and I've just been kind of caught there in the middle for a while. So we're trying to be a little bit smarter with that."

Parton said she was deluged with offers from publishers wanting her to write a diet book and advertisers hoping to have her endorse products, but all that will have to wait while she concentrates on her music and television show.

"I could be making \$10 million a month, but I'll do all those things when the time comes. I don't want to preach to nobody," said Parton, who lives with her husband of 21 years, Carl Dean, on a farm outside Nashville but spends about half the year at her new Los Angeles home. She also has a New York flat and owns a resort in Hawaii.

One occasional feature of the television show will be "This Little Piggy," a humorous look at her diet techniques.

She said she took off the excess weight after trying every kind of diet, including fasting which she still does once a week for physical and spiritual reason. She finally came up with her own formula of eating four or five small meals a day.

"I had to use a lot of willpower to do it, but then I started actually losing by doing that because I would burn up what I was eating before I would eat again, and before you know it, I was just getting so proud of myself," Parton said.

"Even now, I look in the mirror and I think, 'Is that me? Is that the fat old hog looking in that same mirror?'"

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Dolly Parton and her friends in a scene from the Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.

Syria rushes to complete facilities for Mediterranean Games

LATAKIA, Syria (R) — Syrian military engineers are pitting their skills against the clock to construct a \$600 million sports city to host the 10th Mediterranean Games.

Some 5,000 athletes from 17 countries are expected to take part in the two-week games from Sept. 11, the biggest sporting event ever staged by Syria.

Most construction is at a tree-clad site overlooking the sea some six kilometres (four miles) northwest of this port city, known as the "Bride of the Coast."

Facilities include an Olympic village and a 50,000-seat stadium surrounded by five large tent-style halls holding 10 tennis courts, three swimming pool complexes and 30 sports halls.

Building is being carried out by the Defence Ministry's military construction company, which is erecting suspended tent halls for the first time in Syria.

Syrian officials said they were sure Swiss-based Olympic com-

mittee experts would confirm the facilities were of Olympic standard during an inspection on June 3.

Syrian Sports Chief Samih Mudallal said the complex would be completed one month before the games started at a cost of about \$600 million.

Not all events will take place in Latakia.

Equestrian and shooting events will be held in Damascus, while Aleppo and Tartous will host football, basketball and table tennis. Cyclists will race through the rugged coastal mountains between Latakia and Homs.

The only two Mediterranean countries not sending athletes appear to be Albania and Israel, Syria's neighbour and enemy in the four Middle East wars. Egypt, Syria's diplomatic foe for a decade, will send a team.

Syrian officials say they plan unprecedented security for athletes during the games.

Syrian television is buying the latest external broadcast units for the occasion and setting up a press centre for 1,000 journalists.

Japan has granted Syria a \$60 million loan to finance communications equipment, through which economically-strapped Syria hopes to recoup some of the costs of hosting the games.

Officials plan five hours a day of live coverage for Syria's 11 million people and are offering foreign television stations a variety of deals.

Hundreds of Syrian athletes are being trained in special indoor camps by some 50 coaches from the Soviet Union, Japan and China.

"Mediterranean countries will meet together in Latakia to restore the Mediterranean spirit that was the nucleus from which sprang today's progress and civilisation," Minister of Tourism Nawras Al Daqr said.

The Mediterranean Games are held every four years. The ninth games were held in Casablanca, Morocco.

German Open gets underway

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Ninth-seeded Thierry Tulasne of France and 13th seeded Eliot Telscher of the United States eased into the second round of the Ebel German Open on what was otherwise a troublesome day for seeded players.

Tulasne, ranked 20th in the world, brushed aside Wolfgang Popp, one of nine West German players in action, 6-4, 6-3. Telscher was the fastest winner of the day, conceding just one game in sweeping past Sweden's Peter Lindgren, 6-1, 6-0.

National hero Boris Becker is not among the West German players in the draw.

World No. 1 Ivan Lendl, searching for his first tournament title of the year, is top-seeded here. Seeded players Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union, Horacio de la Pena of Argentina, Paolo Cane of Italy and Milan Strejber of Czechoslovakia, all needed three full sets to clinch victory.

Streiber saved two match points in the third set before downing West Germany's Andreas Maurer, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5.

Lendl arrived Monday from his home in the U.S. shortly after landing, he spent two hours on the practice court, showing no signs of a recent troublesome knee injury.

"I feel fine, although I am having treatment again because I aggravated my knee last week when I ran into a net post during practice," Lendl said.

The 27-year-old Czechoslovak is seeded to meet fellow countryman Miloslav Mecir in Sunday's final.

Rinaldi survives challenge in Largo Open tourney

LARGO, Florida (R) — Unseeded Patricia Tarabini of Argentina gave Kathy Rinaldi a scare before the American ousted her rival 6-4, 7-5 in the first round of the \$150,000 Largo Open.

The 18-year-old Tarabini, ranked 128th, used a bewildering variety of shots, mixing drop shots and lobs with topspin and slice to keep Rinaldi, ranked 14th in the world, guessing.

Rinaldi, who has steadily from the baseline, was unsettled at first, falling behind 4-2. The American then changed tactics, using her lob to good effect to reach 4-4.

Rinaldi then broke Tarabini to win the set 6-4 as Tarabini volleyed a backhand into the net. Tarabini, last year's world junior champion, led again in the second set, and stood to serve it out at 5-4 but Rinaldi broke the Argentine with a volley.

Rinaldi broke Tarabini for the match on her third match point when the Argentine had saved the first two with drop shots, her most effective weapon.

"I never seen her play and I didn't know what to expect," Rinaldi said.

Critical day for Europe's soccer nations

LONDON (AP) — Qualifying matches for the 1988 European Soccer Championship reach a crucial stage Wednesday, with several nations on the verge of elimination from the sport's biggest international tournament aside from the World Cup.

Of 11 matches spread across the continent in the busiest night of qualifying action this year, defending champion France is one of the teams most in danger of missing out on the finals in West Germany.

The French, last summer's World Cup semifinalists in Mexico, have started poorly in their defence of the European title, dropping vital points at home and away in group three.

With only two points from three games, defeat, or even a draw, against Iceland in Paris on Wednesday will mean almost certain elimination, especially if the powerful Soviets, with whom France has the misfortune of being paired, beat East Germany the same night.

Injuries have forced out three key French players, all from league leaders Bordeaux.

Defender Patrick Battiston has an ankle injury, as does midfielder Jean-Marc Ferreri. The elegant skills of Jean Tigana will also be missing because of a pulled hamstring. Jean-Francois Domergue, Fabrice Poulain and Dominique Bijotat are the replacements.

France has yet to score a goal in the competition and as a result, coach Henri Michel has brought in Carmelo Micicich of F.C. Metz, one of the country's top strikers this season, for his international debut.

"It will be up to us to force the play," Michel said. "We will need creators, players who can make chances and score as well."

In the other group three game, the Soviet Union, which leads the standings with five points from three games, takes on East Germany, one point behind and still with high hopes of overtaking its East European neighbour to

clinch a surprise place in the finals.

The big game in group one is in Buzan where Spain, runner-up to France in the 1984 finals, attempts to maintain its 100 per cent record against Romania.

With six points from three matches, two of them on the road, the Spanish have carved out a formidable lead and play their remaining two fixtures at home.

Romania, two points behind, is still well in contention but badly needs to win in Bucharest to move level with Spain in the standings. The Romanians' last two games are both away.

Albania, looking for its first point in the tournament, takes on Austria in another group one match that has little bearing on the standings.

The Austrians missed a big chance earlier this month when they lost at home to Spain and, with just two points from three matches, are resigned to missing the finals barring a series of upsets.

Like Spain, England has maximum points in group four and victory over Turkey in Izmir would make Bobby Robson's team hard to catch, even for the dangerous Yugoslavs.

With a goal difference of 7-0, England has the best record of any team in the tournament and has beaten Turkey 8-0 and 5-0 in their last two meetings.

But injuries to striker Peter Beardsley, central defenders Terry Butcher and Mark Wright and midfielder Peter Reid have disrupted the plans of manager Bobby Robson, who does not expect another rout.

"They have changed enormously since we played them before," said Robson, referring to a recent 3-1 victory over East Germany by the Turks, transformed under new boss Mustafa Denizli.

"They are more organised. They are better, much better," said Robson. "It will be volatile out there."

Such is the strength in depth of

the present English squad that only now, with the absence of Beardsley, can Robson even consider Clive Allen, the first division's leading marksman with a remarkable 47 goals.

Reports Tuesday said the manager would choose between Allen and A.C. Milan's Mark Hateley for the second striking role alongside Garry Lineker.

While England travels to Izmir, the Yugoslavs, the only other team in the group with a realistic chance of advancing, visit Belfast to tackle Northern Ireland.

With two points from two games, Yugoslavia must avoid defeat to keep the pressure on England until the two sides clash in Belgrade in November.

Although the Irish are playing mainly for pride after taking just one point from three games, Belfast is never an easy place for visiting teams and Yugoslavia will face the usual tenacity and strong running from Billy Bingham's side.

In group five, Greece has emerged as the front-runner and victory over Poland in Athens would boost its chances of a surprise place in the finals.

Although the Greeks, with seven points from five games, have played more matches than their rivals, they gained a big psychological boost from Poland's surprise 0-0 draw with untested Cyprus earlier this month. A sellout 80,000 crowd will fill the Olympic stadium.

Poland again will be without veteran striker Zbigniew Boniek, reported to be at odds with coach Wojciech Lazurek.

In the same group, victory for the Netherlands in Rotterdam would practically end the hopes of visiting Hungary.

The Dutch are in second place with six points from four games, while Hungary has two from three.

Dutch trainer Rinus Michels is said to have spent last weekend trying to smooth over tensions between the players of Ajax Amsterdam and PSV Eindhoven.

These apparently arose last month when Ajax players criticised PSV players for performing poorly in a 1-1 draw with Greece.

Wales, which has narrowly missed qualifying for the last two big soccer tournaments, stages a vital group six match against Czechoslovakia at Wrexham.

Both teams have three points from two games and victory for Wales, which will rely heavily on the twin strike force of Ian Rush and Mark Hughes, will give manager Mike England's squad a strong chance of making the finals of a major event at the third attempt.

If Wales succeeds, it will also have to eliminate Denmark, one of Europe's most versatile teams.

The Danes also have three points from two games and are strongly favoured not only to win group six but also to take France's title next year.

Denmark's chances of beating Scandinavian rival Finland in Helsinki on Wednesday have been hit, however, by the absence of its dangerous strike force, Michael Laudrup and Preben Elkjaer.

Laudrup's club, Juventus, declined to release its star forward while Elkjaer will sit out the match with a leg injury.

Group seven sees the republic of Ireland, bidding for a place in the finals for the first time, taking on Belgium, last year's fourth-placed team in the World Cup.

Belgium, leading with six points from four games, are favourites to clinch the group but an Irish victory in Dublin would tie the lead and make for an exciting climax to the qualifying stage.

In its biggest match for months, Ireland has a number of injuries, especially in defence where Mark Lawrenson and David O'Leary are both ruled out.

Belgium will field its English-born striker Nico Claessen, who scored three goals against Scotland last month. But the visitors are missing midfielder Stephane Demol and give a debut to defender Philippe Albert.

Czechs down U.S., W. Germans win court battle in world hockey tourney

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The United States lost its final match of the preliminary round of the World Hockey Championships, going down 4-2, to Czechoslovakia.

Already sentenced to play in the relegation pool, the Americans, who wound up with two victories from seven first stage games, surprised the Czechs by taking a 1-0 lead into second session.

But they crumbled in the middle of an uninspiring game. West Germany edged Switzerland 4-3 in the day's other match while Sweden advanced to the medal round on an assist by a Viennese judge.

Craig Jampy fired the U.S. ahead at 6:50 of the opening period and Czechoslovakia, favoured to meet defending champion Soviet Union in the final, did not draw level until 6:30 of the second.

Jiri Hrdina scored the leveller and then fired his side ahead at 15:56 of the third period. Dusan Pasek netted a third 11:47 of the third, but U.S. captain Mark Johnson set up a close finish by scoring at 18:54.

The Americans gambled by taking goaltender John Vanbiesbroek off the ice and Pasek took advantage by backhanding the puck from inside his own team's blue line into an empty net with seven seconds remaining.

While the final games of the tournament's first stage were being contested in the Stadthalle Arena, the International Ice Hockey Federation was engaged in a legal battle over an issue that threw the 52nd championships into confusion.

In court, the IIHF lost to judge Fritz Klebermazz, who upheld an injunction he slapped on the federation last Friday.

The controversy began a week ago when Finland lost to West Germany and later protested that the Germans fielded an ineligible player, polish-born Miloslav Sikora.

Sikora, a 29-year-old defenceman, had played for Poland at junior international level and the IIHF supported the Finns' protest.

It cancelled the German's 3-1 victory over Finland and 5-3 triumph over Canada as well as a

3-0 defeat by Sweden, substituting instead 5-0 defeats in each case.

The Germans, who produced a letter purporting to show the IIHF had cleared Sikora to play, went to court and judge Klebermazz granted them an injunction, forcing the federation to restore their two victories.

Although the four points did not help the Germans reach the play-off rounds, the results were vital to the Finns.

A "victory" over the Germans meant they drew level on points with Sweden for fourth place in the standings. Having beaten the Swedes 4-1, they would have progressed to the medal rounds, leaving Sweden to join the relegation pool.

The judge's injunction robbed Finland of the points and promoted Sweden to fourth place and qualification.

When the action resumed on the ice, West Germany's Helmut Steiger scored the only goal of the final session to ensure the Swiss remained pointless and favourites for relegation from Group A.

Germans try to stem tide of exiles

BONN (R) — Fears that several Bundesliga stars could fly south at the end of the season to further their careers and bank balances in sunnier climes have set the alarm bells ringing in West German soccer circles.

With transfer rumours proliferating, National Team Manager Franz Beckenbauer sounded a timely warning that exiles might find themselves excluded from the squad for next year's European championship, being staged in West Germany.

"If too many players go abroad, then I'll just do without them completely," he said.

The versatile Thomas Berthold, who played in the West German team in last year's World Cup final in Mexico, set the ball rolling by travelling to Verona earlier this month to sign a lucrative contract with the Italian club.

Rudi Voller, the striker with a national sporting hero status surpassed only by Wimbledon Ten-

nis Champion Boris Becker, made no secret of the fact he was likely to follow.

Roma and Torino are reported to be chasing the signature of the Werder Bremen centre-forward who is already taking Italian lessons, as is his wife Angela.

National team captain Klaus Allofs is talking about offers from Spain and France while a clutch of outstanding midfielders, including Bayern's Lothar Matthaus and Borussia Moenchengladbach's Uwe Rahn, are also listening to offers.

Among the others are Hamburg captain Thomas von Heesen, the newly-capped Kaiserslautern player Wolfram Wuttke and Stuttgart's Karl Allgower, a member of the World Cup squad.

"I am not going to fetch back half the national team from abroad," Beckenbauer said. "Those who are abroad quickly get used to the foreign tempo of

play. And that is not our tempo."

Beckenbauer brought back two Italian-based players, captain Karl-Heinz Rumenigge and defender Hans-Peter Briegel, for the team which ended as world vice-champions in Mexico.

Stopper Karlheinz Foerster and winger Pierre Littbarski signed for French clubs after the Mexico finals but neither played for West Germany again until Littbarski was recalled for the friendly with Italy 10 days ago.

Several other players who would normally be in line for national team selection, such as Bernd Schuster in Spain, Hansi Mueller in Austria and Uli Stielike in Switzerland, have been abroad for years.

But the current exodus threatens to be the worst ever as West German clubs have fallen on hard times and are unable to match the money being offered by Italian, French and Spanish teams.

Salazar begins slow comeback

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Alberto Salazar swallowed his pride at the weekend and plodded around the Franklin field track to finish a distant 18th over 5,000 metres.

But the once vaunted "marathoner" was encouraged by the effort and vowed he would triumph in the end after two years of injury.

Salazar, in his first major competition in more than two years, clocked a dreadful 14 minutes 28.2 seconds to lag 300 metres behind Penn Relays winner Sydney Marec.

But the Cuban-born American smiled like a winner afterwards. "This is one more bad race that everybody is going to remember when I come back and run great," he said.

Salazar, who earlier this decade held the U.S. records in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres and won three successive New York City marathons, has been sidelined by nerve damage to the right hamstring that required surgery in 1985.

"Every time I have a race like this, rather than being discouraged, it spurs me on even more. It makes me think I am going to show them," he said. "I am completely convinced that I will run faster than I ever did before."

Doctors tell him the nerve damage is repaired and that another muscle used in obtaining full extension is also healing.

His cardiovascular system is in great shape — the National Institute of Sport in Australia recently proclaimed him the strongest they had ever tested — and he has controlled a thyroid problem that left him sluggish.

"If the doctors had come out and said I still had nerve damage, I might as well have retired," Salazar said. "The nerves have healed to the point where it (his right leg) can now turn over fast enough but it can't maintain that for a long period of time."

For now Salazar is content to tune up in relatively minor events, but he plans to return.

"I've got to use the pressure to perform," he said. "Sooner or later you've got to start racing, no matter how poor your race. You just can't train all of your life. That's what I've done the last three years."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Gutierrez wins 4th leg of Spanish cycling

VILLARREAL, Spain (AP) — Spain's Alfonso Gutierrez won the fourth leg of the 42nd Tour of Spain cycling race, a 169-kilometre (104-mile) stretch from Valencia. Gutierrez won the leg, which included three mountain passes, in mass sprint on the finish line in four hours, 30 minutes and 32 seconds, at an average speed of 37.481 kph (23 mph). He outdistanced Belgium's Wencor Devos, Spain's Jorge Dominguez and Italy's Paolo Rosola in the final metres on Monday. Ireland's Sean Kelly kept the yellow jersey of overall leader in the 22-day, 3,922-kilometre (2,431 mile) race.

Italy's Oliva postpones WBA title defence

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Patrizio Oliva of Italy has been forced to postpone his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior welterweight title defence against Argentine Juan Martin Coggi because of injury, the fight promoter said. Elio Cotena told Reuters that Oliva, 27, who was due to meet Coggi in Sicily on May 9, had postponed the bout after he injured both his hands in training. Cotena said doctors had ordered at least 20 days rest for Oliva but organisers still hoped to be able to stage the fight with Coggi in June.

Racer Arnoux penalised for speeding

PARIS (R) — Formula One motor racing driver Rene Arnoux has had his licence suspended for nine months for speeding at 242 kilometres an hour (151 mph) on a French road but will continue to compete on the track, judicial sources said Tuesday. Arnoux was also fined 2,500 francs (\$400).

Boxer Ali joins Saudi prince in venture

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was in Brazil to close a deal to produce and export a high-tech sports car. Ali, 45, told the AP by phone from the southern city of Curitiba, 253 miles (408 kilometres) from Sao Paulo, that earlier plans to build the car in the United States had fallen through. He said his Virginia-based Ali Holding Corporation formed a joint venture with the Curitiba-headquartered Araucaria Industrias de Veiculos Limitada to produce and export a high tech, Porsche engine-powered car called the Al-Fassi Mirage. The contract was to be signed Tuesday. The car is named after Saudi Arabian Prince Mohammad Al Fassi, one of Ali's partners and principal financial backers. Ali would not give details on how much was invested in the venture.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6610/20	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3350/60	Canadian dollar
	1.7900/10	West German marks
	2.0200/10	Dutch guilders
	1.4610/20	Swiss francs
	37.14/19	Belgian francs
	5.9775/825	French francs
	1280/1281	Italian lira
	139.40/50	Japanese yen
	6.2490/2540	Swedish crown
	6.6575/6625	Norwegian crowns
	6.7450/7500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	454.50/455.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices were back from their midsession highs as operators paused to bank profits gained in the early afternoon surge on news of lower base rates and much higher than expected first quarter profits from ICI.

A survey from the Confederation of British Industry indicating a rise in optimism for manufacturing orders and output, exports and employment had contributed to the morning's firmer showing in equities, dealers said.

By 1424 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 35.2 points to 2,021.8 having touched a high of 2,025.7 at 1334 GMT. Index constituent ICI was up 55p to 1,312 after an earlier high of 1,320.

ICI came in with first quarter pre-tax profits of £334 million, well above the market's forecasts of around £295 million and 204 million in the same quarter last year.

The ICI news was quickly followed by Barclays Bank's move to cut its base lending rate to 9½ from the 10 per cent held since March 18. By the late afternoon all the main four clearing banks had brought their base rates down to 9½ per cent.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Arguments and difficulties get in your path if you try to hold on to the past or to endeavor to accomplish too much in too many directions early in the day.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Remember that a kind word turns away wrath, so don't be tempted to criticize others at home.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Early keep some promise you have made to one who dwells with you and later you are able to handle a business affair tactfully.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Handle correspondence and other communications in a delightful manner and get fine results.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Find some way to add to present abundance, but later be careful outside where a tense situation could be met.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You made decisions yesterday that should be put in operation today without fail, but you had better try to economize tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Make a careful plan for gaining your private aims, but don't be forceful in public later in the day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get in touch with friends who can help you to gain your fondest wishes. Avoid one who wants to burden you with own troubles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Getting into some kind of outside public project could bring you benefits at this time. Be charming.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You begin the new week by being highly inspired to get ahead fast, but don't do anything that can jeopardize your good name.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Doing something special for your mate in the morning is wise, but later avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Go along with a partner's plan that is worthwhile since this person is dynamic and has good connections.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Anything you have in mind that could get your added cooperation from co-workers is good, but avoid a cranky partner for now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have many fine ideas and think big, and should get an early start on the career. Upon reaching maturity your progeny will be more interested in getting much practical work done and not fuss so much with motives and conjectures.

THE Daily Crossword

by Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

- Follow
- Liou
- Soviet news agency
- Wine of Zans
- Bro (husb)
- Singer Paul
- Actor from Egypt
- Dove
- Vandergaard
- "The Lady"
- Slit bottom
- Psychiatric
- Held back
- Shirvan
- Huby and
- Band
- Meat tender
- Kind of jazz
- Old language
- June word
- for storage
- Small short
- Three letters
- Back up
- Delate
- NY city
- Ones
- Open by
- Delian
- Post follower
- Yew
- Back of a hand
- Architect
- Surfboard
- "Last Weekend"
- Give an start
- Whistle
- Go longer
- and
- (sly) by
- Compos VPs
- Access
- Thompson

DOWN

- Shiny colors
- Wag
- Shiny cat
- Shiny
- Board game var.
- Flute
- Ducks
- Hobbeson
- was going
- to St. Ives
- Contaminates
- Zodiac sign
- Can. singer
- Side
- Post
- Lean to
- Foot of
- Program
- Take it easy
- US labor leader
- Spooky film
- Victory of the screen
- Poker term
- Type of stool
- Part
- Shoe parts
- Chute
- Spread gossip
- Muscle pulls
- red tail
- plant
- Islamic
- Man's intensity
- Wood used in shipbuilding
- Double curve
- side
- Arabian lady
- the Milky
- Ram's den
- Beverage

Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

BOARD GAME VAR. 1. FLUTE 2. DUCKS 3. HOBBSON 4. WAS GOING TO ST. IVES 5. CONTAMINATES 6. ZODIAC SIGN 7. CAN. SINGER 8. SIDE 9. POST 10. LEAN TO 11. FOOT OF 12. PROGRAM 13. TAKE IT EASY 14. US LABOR LEADER 15. SPOOKY FILM 16. VICTORY OF THE SCREEN 17. POKER TERM 18. TYPE OF STOOL 19. PART 20. SHOE PARTS 21. CHUTE 22. SPREAD GOSSIP 23. MUSCLE PULLS 24. RED TAIL 25. PLANT 26. ISLAMIC 27. MAN'S INTENSITY 28. WOOD USED IN SHIPBUILDING 29. DOUBLE CURVE 30. SIDE 31. ARABIAN LADY 32. THE MILKY 33. RAM'S DEN 34. BEVERAGE

Japanese official suggests currency buffer stock

OSAKA, Japan (R) — A senior official of the Japanese finance ministry has raised the possibility of eventually establishing a buffer stock to help stabilize currencies, along the lines of those already set up for some commodities.

The official, who asked not to be identified, emphasized that the idea was still a personal one and was in the early stages.

Just the idea is a radical departure from the policies of the past, when Japan was a firm believer in letting market forces determine currency rates.

The suggestion also seems to go some way towards the U.S. proposal to establish currency reference ranges, an idea for which Tokyo has until now shown little enthusiasm, bankers said.

Buffer stocks are used in commodity agreements to contain prices within certain bands. Stocks are sold off when prices become too high, then replenished when prices drop too low.

Enthusiasm for the use of buffer stocks to stabilize commodities cooled with the recent collapse of the International Tin Council after its efforts to prop up the tin market failed, bankers said.

The senior official told Reuters Monday that Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa had been impressed with the cooperative effort made by major industrial democracies to stabilize the dollar through currency market intervention.

The Bank of Japan on Monday sold West German marks for U.S. dollars, while the Bundesbank has sold Japanese yen for the U.S. currency as part of the multilateral effort to prop up the dollar, he said.

British government offers Rolls-Royce Plc to public

LONDON (R) — The British government Tuesday launched its public sale of Rolls-Royce Plc, putting a £1.36 billion (\$2.20 billion) price tag on the aero-engine firm it rescued from collapse 16 years ago.

The sale is likely to be the last major privatisation by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government before calling an early general election, now widely expected in June.

Mrs. Thatcher's programme of selling large state-owned companies such as British Gas and British Airways has introduced an estimated eight million Britons to share ownership.

Trade and Industry Ministry Paul Channon said shares in Rolls-Royce Plc — not to be confused with the luxury car maker Rolls-Royce Motors Ltd, which was hived off in 1971 — were being priced at £1.70 (£2.75) each.

The share offer launched Tuesday closes on May 7 and trading in the stock will begin on May 19.

All the government's 635 million shares and an additional £283 million (\$458 million) worth of new shares are being offered to the public.

But the government will retain a specially created "golden

Mr. Miyazawa told a press conference that major nations have sufficient funds to continue to intervene in the currency markets to stabilise the dollar.

Bankers said that in one sense a multilateral buffer stock was already in the process of forming to stabilise the dollar, as major nations had consistently and aggressively intervened to achieve that end.

But the dollar has continued to fall, particularly against the yen. At the Venice summit meeting of the major non-communist industrial nations in June, the United States is expected to press for closer cooperation on economic policy as a means of stabilising currency rates, Japanese officials said.

The Japanese official said that Mr. Miyazawa's comments that only intervention and policy coordination could help stabilise rates reflected his satisfaction with the widespread action major nations have taken on the market.

Mr. Miyazawa's remarks surprised some currency dealers, who saw it as a tacit admission that little could be done to stop the dollar's head-long fall.

Meanwhile, a semblance of calm returned to the currency markets Tuesday as the dollar steadied but the Tokyo stock market went berserk, losing over 1,000 points in morning panic selling and then leaping back after lunch.

Fund managers were happy to close their books for the day and look forward to Wednesday's holiday for the emperor's birthday, when they can relax and work out what happened after a five per cent fall in the market index in only 48 hours.

U.S. urges Asian countries to make greater contribution to world economy

OSAKA, Japan (Agencies) — Asian countries need to improve market access and work to adjust trade imbalances to help preserve the world trading system, a U.S. official said Tuesday during a meeting of the Asian Development Bank.

"It is critical that the newly industrialising economies of Asia do more to help preserve the open world trading system from which they have benefited so greatly," said Mr. Charles Dallara of the U.S. Treasury Department.

"World markets will not stay open unless economies that benefit substantially from the open trading system also contribute substantially to its maintenance through further trade liberalisation," he said.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is an international partnership of 47 countries, including the United States, that lends money for Asian-Pacific development.

Mr. Dallara said U.S. trade deficits with key economies in the region grew from \$3.6 billion in 1980 to \$28.8 billion in 1986, or nearly 20 per cent of the total U.S. trade deficit.

He said the United States is prepared to pass trade bills that would impose tariffs and other

restrictions on countries that have large trade surpluses with the United States.

Countries that have high trade surpluses with the United States include South Korea, Japan and Taiwan.

During his speech, Mr. Dallara also criticised the management of the ADB, saying "we have had problems with some of the projects brought before the board of directors lately."

He urged the creation of a task force under the board of governors to recommend directions for bank activity before initiating negotiations on a new general capital increase.

Australia and Canada also criticised bank operations Tuesday, saying more control over projects is necessary.

Mr. Masao Fujioka, president of the bank, has been at odds with the United States over bank issues, including demands from the United States that loan policies for some countries like Vietnam be tied to political reforms.

Mr. Dallara also said some of the major debtors of the region that have experienced difficulties are now on the way to restoring good credit.

He said a number of the bank's traditional borrowers have reached a point where they are less dependent on bank lending, and urged the bank to consider how it can increase its effectiveness in promoting development and growth.

Poorer Asian nations and their supporters said the ADB should increase its lending and not try to dictate policy to its members.

The bank's net transfer of resources to its poorer members — loan disbursements less repayments — fell sharply to \$237 million in 1986 from \$421 million in 1985.

"Such a figure reveals a role of the bank in the region well below the level that we consider desirable," Spain's secretary of state for commerce, Mr. Miguel Ordóñez, said.

India's Finance Secretary S. Venkatarmanan said New Delhi was concerned by the slowdown in bank lending when developing countries needed more money at better terms.

He urged the bank to increase

its average loan size, currently \$40 million.

India received its first loans from the ADB last year.

"We are concerned with the bank's increasing preoccupation with policy dialogue," Mr. Venkatarmanan said, adding that global economic prescriptions had caused hardship.

"The bank must approach these discussions with considerable caution and a fair degree of modesty concerning its own prescriptive capacities," he added.

Afghanistan, which received its last ADB loan in 1978 before the Soviet intervention and is not mentioned in the bank's 1986 annual report, said it was in desperate need of help.

"We regretfully witness that development assistance has been totally denied to us by the Western countries and also by... the ADB, contrary to the objectives underlying the establishment of these institutions," Kabul's delegate, Mr. Khalilullah Amin, told the meeting.

Mr. Amin complained that organisations like the ADB had not only held back previously approved loans but also suspended disbursements for continuing projects.

Kuwaiti bank sees benefits in oil glut

KUWAIT (R) — The world oil glut has reduced the incomes of Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Arab allies but it has also brought benefits, a leading Kuwaiti bank said Tuesday.

"Persistent oil glut is not all bad news for the region," the National Bank of Kuwait said in a regional economic review.

"Salutary effects are already emerging in the wake of recession, as both the public and private sectors are being forced to weed out inefficiencies and achieve better allocation of resources," said the bank, whose profits and assets put it among the Middle East's top financial institutions.

Oil revenues of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman,

Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — are estimated to have fallen 35 per cent last year, it said.

This is little more than one half of the \$63 billion only two years before when oil prices, currently around \$18 a barrel after dipping briefly below \$10 a year ago, were 55 per cent higher than now.

"The severity of the downturn, in a sense, has only accelerated the (economic) adjustment process first timidly engaged four years ago," the bank said.

Despite the growing importance of income earned on petrodollar investments, oil still accounts for 80 per cent of total GCC government revenues, it said.

Public finances of most Gulf

Arab states are in the red, and an aggregate deficit in 1985/86 of \$16 billion will probably widen by 25-30 per cent this year.

Most GCC members are believed to have dipped into their reserves, the bank added.

Member states, with a total population of 16.8 million, have considerable leeway, however, to cope with mounting pressures on internal finances and balance of payments accounts, it said.

Of total GCC monetary reserves, estimated at \$204.3 billion for 1986, Saudi Arabia has \$85 billion and Kuwait \$80 billion.

Balance of payments current accounts have deteriorated sharply. "At one extreme, Saudi Arabia, the most severely impacted by the oil glut, has been posting a

negative balance for three years in a row," the bank said.

The Saudi current account deficit was expected to widen to \$25-\$30 billion in 1986/87 from \$20 billion in 1984/85.

Other GCC members registered a combined surplus then of \$14 billion, which is likely to shrink to \$8 to \$10 billion in 1986/87, it said.

The combined import bill was estimated to have dropped 23 per cent in the years 1983-85 after surging by 50 per cent during 1973-78 and 17 per cent in the next three years.

The bank said the fast drop in oil income, along with enhanced efficiency in productive ventures, should promote a better balance in GCC economies between the public and private sectors.

Africa makes progress in improving farm output

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farmers in a growing number of African countries are producing more food as governments have begun paying higher prices for crops, according to a new report.

The report, contained in a yearbook released during the weekend by the World Resources Institute and the International Institute for Environment and Development, said notable success in raising farm output has occurred in Tanzania, Mauritania, Zaire, Guinea and Zimbabwe.

"An increasing number of countries have begun to implement policies to raise producer prices — often resulting in a swift response in increased output," the groups said in the yearbook

called "World Resources 1987," an annual compilation of statistics on health, energy, food, water and other topics.

The World Resources Institute is a Washington-based environmental research organization and receives support from both environmental and business groups. The International Institute for Environment and Development is based in Washington, London and Buenos Aires and advocates protection of natural resources in economic development.

"The most dramatic transformation in African agriculture has occurred among Zimbabwe's black farmers" since independence in 1980, the report said. Under the former regime in Zimbabwe, according to the year-

book, "white farmers got preferential prices for their maize (corn), and preferential access to credit and extension advice."

Under the new regime, fertiliser, high-yield seeds and seed dressings were made available in promising areas, at a loan of \$150 per hectare (about \$61 per acre). Agricultural Finance Corp. loans to black farmers increased from 4,400 in 1979 to 96,000 in 1985 and were coupled with more than 50 per cent increases in corn prices.

"By 1985, average maize yields among black farmers had doubled," with some getting four tonnes per hectare (64 bushels per acre), the maize harvest had tripled, the country had a million tonnes (39 million bushels) available for export, returns on investment were running at 60 per cent to 140 per cent per year, the yearbook said.

The high-input programme "demonstrates dramatically the speed with which African farmers can adapt," the yearbook said.

With more and more farmers cultivating the new breed, the cassava experiment shows that "research is finally beginning to get out of the research centres" and into the hands of farmers, said Mr. David Runnalls of the International Institute for Environment and Development at a news conference last week on the report.

Farmers in Third World countries have an undeserved reputation of being slow to change.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Those coins are meant for that monster

LOOGI

PLOIT

SEVURS

PUNACK

WHAT THE BROKEN SOFT DRINK MACHINE WAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "LOOGI-PLOIT-SEVURS-PUNACK"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIANO FLOID NOUGAT SCARCE
Answer: When looking for bargains, you might go there — WHERE THE "AUCTION" IS

Bombs hit bishop's house, U.S. office in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Attackers attempted to murder a prominent Roman Catholic bishop in central Philippines Tuesday, hours after a Muslim group took responsibility for bombing a United States military office in Manila.

Although no-one was hurt in either attack political analysts worried that could mark a new phase of violence in the Philippines.

Bombs, with the ability to kill or maim bystanders, have been used rarely and political violence has usually been specifically targeted, they said.

The military said 35 people, including five candidates, have been killed in political violence in the six weeks since campaigning started for next month's election for a new two-house congress.

Bishop Antonio Fortich escaped unhurt after a grenade aimed at his bedroom window bounced off a tree, shattering windows in a ground floor chapel, police in Bacolod said.

"It was a direct attempt on the bishop's life. If it were not for a miscalculation it would have penetrated the bishop's room," Police Chief Herman Plotena told Reuters.

In the capital, a group calling itself the "Jihad Brigade" said it had thrown two bombs at an office used by the joint U.S. Military Assistance Group (Jusmag) and sprayed the building with gunfire.

Jusmag supervises the delivery of Washington's military aid to the Philippines.

A leading Muslim official said he knew nothing of the existence

of such a group in the Philippines but said he would support the bombing if it furthered the interests of Muslims.

The attacks were condemned by both the U.S. embassy and the powerful Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines, but neither gave any indication of likely motives.

A U.S. spokesman called the attack on the Jusmag office — the second in a year — "very regrettable."

Monsignor Feliciano Palma said the Bishop's Conference — the ruling body of the church in Asia's only Christian country — was very concerned at the attack on Fortich.

"It is too early to reach conclusions but a thing like this is to be condemned," he told Reuters.

In an apparent hint that right wingers may have been behind the murder attempt, he added: "Even though the church stands for human rights and the people this is the first time an attempt has been made on life of a bishop."

Fortich's support of human rights and condemnation of poverty in Negros Island have led accusations that many of his priests are Communists and at the 72-year-old bishop is, at least, a leftist sympathiser.

In a separate incident Tuesday, Negros villagers told policemen they believed government troops

had murdered eight civilians, three of them women. The killings were carried out by men who identified themselves as troopers but they had removed insignia from their battle fatigues, they said.

Local mayor Rowena Guanzon accused troops of "abuses and atrocities" and said she would petition President Corazon Aquino to withdraw the 57th Infantry Battalion from the area.

Marcos wants to go home

Meanwhile in Honolulu, warning that the Philippines faced possible civil war, former President Ferdinand Marcos offered Monday to return home and work inside a government of national reconciliation to fight a Communist takeover.

"If it's going to be an effective government and fight the Communists — that's my condition," Marcos told Reuters in an interview at his exile home in Hawaii.

"Provided we can avoid a civil war, I am willing to go, but Madame (President Corazon) Aquino must not make the decision.... I think we can appoint an executive body which can be composed of all elements," he said.

"Let's forget the past. I did not have anything to do with the killing of her husband and she knows it."

He was referring to the 1983 assassination of Benigno Aquino at Manila airport, which began a series of events leading to the civilian-backed military revolt that ended Marcos' 20-year rule 14 months ago.

Japanese defence chief to visit China

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Defence Agency Director General Yuko Kurihara said Tuesday he will make a five-day visit to China in May at the invitation of Chinese Defence Minister Zhang Aiping.

It will be the first visit to China by a Japanese defence chief since Japan surrendered to World War II allies, including China, in 1945, Defence officials said.

Gen. Kurihara told a regular news briefing that his schedule in China was yet to be decided.

Before taking his current post, Gen. Kurihara visited China several times, but no acting Defence Agency director general has ever made the trip.

The Japanese military occupied much of China before and during the war.

Sino-Japanese defence exchanges have increased in recent years. Zhang stopped over briefly in Japan in 1984, and Yang Dezhi, China's armed forces chief of staff, visited last May.

China recently has criticised Japan for its Jan. 24 decision to scrap the country's 10-year-old policy of limiting defence spending to 1 per cent of the gross national product.

U.S. confirms plane missing over Angola

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department has confirmed that a light aircraft that Angola claims to have shot down was missing in Africa.

The official Angolan News Agency Angop, quoting military sources in the southern city of Lubango, had reported that the plane might have been on a spying mission for South Africa.

But a State Department statement said the pilot, identified as Joseph Longo of Pennsylvania, was a private citizen and not a government employee.

Angop said Friday that a single-engine Beechcraft was downed by Angolan fighters over Otechinjan in southern Cuanene province.

State Department Spokesman Charles Redman, quoting information from the U.S. embassy in Pretoria, said a Beechcraft F33A Bonanza was overdue on a flight from Abidjan, Ivory Coast to Johannesburg.

The United States had asked several friendly governments to see if they could obtain more details, he added.

The State Department said Longo "is not at present an employee of the U.S. government and we have no information indicating that he has ever been employed by the U.S. government."

The incident came during an apparent thaw in U.S.-Angolan relations, strained over the past year by Washington's decision to give military aid to the rebel group known as UNITA, for National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

New secrets row hits U.K. government

LONDON (R) — The British government has been involved in a politically embarrassing row about press freedom as it moved to block disclosures of an alleged secret service plot to topple a previous Labour government.

The government of Margaret Thatcher, expected to announce general elections within weeks, said it was starting legal proceedings against three newspapers that carried extracts from the banned memoirs of a former officer of the counter-espionage agency MI5.

The unpublished book by Peter Wright alleged that senior MI5 officers were involved in a plot to undermine Harold Wilson's Labour government in 1974, and other unauthorised "dirty tricks."

However, the two newspapers originally muzzled were reported to be considering appealing to the high court on the grounds that Monday's revelations meant the gag was worthless.

If they do, the government faces a prospect of an embarrassing replay of its ill-fated attempts last autumn to block publication of the memoirs in Australia, where Wright now lives in retirement.

Havers based his move on a similar action against the Guardian and Observer newspapers last July to stop them publishing extracts from the memoirs. Other newspapers were warned at the time not to touch Wright's book, called *Spycatcher*.

However the two newspapers originally muzzled were reported to be considering appealing to the high court on the grounds that Monday's revelations meant the

Lisbon council votes to dissolve parliament

LISBON (R) — Portugal's Council of State, chaired by President Mario Soares, voted Tuesday to dissolve parliament, paving the way for an early general election.

"The Council of State voted by a majority to dissolve the Assembly of the Republic (parliament)," a presidential spokesman said after a 90-minute meeting. No further statement was made.

The meeting was called as last constitutional step before Presi-

dent Soares can call elections to end the crisis caused by the toppling of Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva's minority centre-right government early this month.

Official sources said they expected Mr. Soares to make the formal dissolution announcement and give the date for elections, predicted for mid-July, in a television broadcast Wednesday.

Pakistan seeks to lease radar planes from U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Pakistan has asked the United States to urgently lease it radar aircraft to defend border towns against raids by warplanes based in Afghanistan, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

The newspaper, quoting unnamed Reagan administration officials, said Pakistan had asked Washington of the safety of U.S. military personnel required to operate the aircraft.

The administration was also assured that the planes would not fly over Afghanistan, the newspaper said.

Pakistan's request to lease the planes replaces its earlier request to buy surveillance aircraft, the Times said.

By leasing the aircraft, Pakistan would avoid a fight in the U.S. Congress, where some members are opposed to military aid for Islamabad which they say is developing nuclear weapons.

More S. Korean clergymen join anti-government strike

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Public protests against the government of President Chun Doo-hwan spread Tuesday as more Christian clergymen joined a nationwide hunger strike.

Church officials said that as of Tuesday afternoon, 121 Roman Catholic priests, Protestant ministers and civic leaders had joined in hunger strikes or sit-ins in Seoul and two provincial cities.

"Nationwide, we now have 74 priests on an indefinite hunger strike and the number will increase," said a Catholic official in Seoul, speaking on condition of anonymity.

There are 2.3 million Catholics in South Korea, making it the third largest religion in the country after Buddhism and Protestantism. Many Catholic leaders are highly active in human rights and labor causes.

In Seoul, 40 priests began on indefinite hunger strike Monday night at Myungdong Cathedral in the downtown area, demanding constitutional changes and other democratic reforms.

In Chonjin, an opposition stronghold 200 kilometres south of Seoul, 15 priests were in the fifth day of a hunger strike, demanding improved human rights and the resignation of the Chun government.

Congressmen offer reward for freed American POWs

WASHINGTON (R) — A group of Republican congressmen offered a million dollar reward to any Vietnamese, Laotian or Kampuchean who frees a U.S. prisoner of war or serviceman missing in action in Indochina.

The offer was made public at a news conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, attended by congressmen Robert Dornan, David Dreier, and Duncan Hunter of California, John Rowland of Connecticut and Robert Smith of New Hampshire, each of whom pledged \$100,000 toward the reward.

"We're doing this out of concern for the plight of the prisoners whom we know are still being held captive. We simply want freedom for these prisoners," for-

mer North Carolina Congressman Bill Hendon told Reuters in a telephone interview.

In addition to the five congressmen at the news conference, Mr. Hendon, former POW Eugene McDaniel, congressman Denny Smith of Oregon, James Hansen of Utah, and Don Sundquist of Tennessee also promised to pay \$100,000 each as a reward.

Anyone wishing to claim the reward must take a freed American to an official U.S. facility in South East Asia where his identity has to match a Defence Department list of those held prisoner or listed as missing in action in the region, Mr. Hendon said.

As of January 14, 1986, the Defence Department listed 2,441 Americans still missing in action.

COLUMNS 7&8

China claims discovery of Buddha's bones

PEKING (R) — Two tiny balls of bone said to come from the body of Buddha have been found in a stone box buried near here 1,371 years ago, Chinese religious officials said Tuesday. The chairman of the All-China Buddhist Association, Zhao Fuchu, told a news conference the sacred relics were discovered in a cave near the Yunju temple to the south west of Peking in 1981. He said news of the discovery had not been released until now because the authorities wanted to make full preparations first. Another official said the relics would be put on display in the Buddhist Association's headquarters in Peking next month. Another official said the relics would be put on display in the Buddhist Association's headquarters in Peking next month. Inscriptions on the stone boxes holding the relics indicate they were placed in the cave in the year 616. The Yunju Temple is famous for its collection of Buddhist scriptures carved on more than 14,000 stone slabs.

Second white tiger cub dies

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A second rare, white tiger cub died in New Delhi on Tuesday, two days after she was separated from the mother who had refused to nurse her, zoo director Kamal Naidu said. "We tried our best, but fate decided otherwise," Naidu said. Earlier, the mother rejected a male cub and died of starvation. The mother, named Neema, gave birth to four white cubs on April 19, raising hopes that the rare tiger species will survive. She is still nursing two of the cubs — the first born. "We are taking all precautions, to ensure there is no disturbance, nothing at all which may affect the mother and her cubs," Naidu said. Only about 100 white tigers are left in the world. There are about 50 in the United States, 35 in India and the remainder are in Britain. All are in captivity, Naidu said. All white tigers are descendants of a male white tiger discovered in 1952 in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. Naidu and his wife tried to save the female cub by feeding it a mixture of honey, glucose and cow's milk. "We even called a child specialist to help the zoo's vet, but the cub sank and sank," Naidu said.

Italian mountaineers climb Mt. Ararat

DOGUBEYAZIT, Turkey (AP) — Italian mountaineers have climbed the 5,165-metre Mount Ararat, the legendary resting place of Noah's Ark, an expedition member has said. Filaret Gurubaz, a Turkish guide with the Italian expedition, told the Associated Press that the group reached the peak on Saturday. Gurubaz said the expedition, which started on April 19 from this 1,600-metre high town near the Soviet and Iranian borders, was composed of Filippo Sala, Fabrizio Desco, Marco Bertoni, Loris Duzzi, Giuseppe Tosi, all from Modena, and Giovanni Pastine, from Genoa, and Mehmet Ozcan and himself as Turkish guides. He said the group returned to Dogubeyazit Saturday evening. Mt. Ararat, the highest peak in Asia minor, is a challenge to Turkish and international climbers. Groups of explorers including former U.S. astronaut James Irwin have also climbed it in search of Noah's Ark. The Book of Genesis in the Bible says that after the great flood inundated the earth, the Ark came to rest on the "mountains of Ararat."

U.K. ballet to perform in Soviet Union

LONDON (R) — Britain's Royal Ballet will tour the Soviet Union for a month from June on the first visit there by a British classical ballet troupe for 26 years, a spokesman has said. The tour, from June 6 to July 7, will include visits to Moscow and Leningrad and follows a successful tour of Britain by the internationally-renowned Bolshoi Ballet last year, the spokesman said. In a further move towards better East-West cultural links, the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet has announced plans to tour Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany and Bulgaria in May and June.

Jarvik heart inventor fired as chairman

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AP) — Dr. Robert K. Jarvik, inventor of the Jarvik-7 artificial heart, has been fired as chairman of the board of the company that manufactures the device, an attorney has said. Gordon Hansen, attorney for Symbion Inc. of Salt Lake City, said the dismissal was not related to a stock buyout that gave New York City-based Warburg, Pincus Capital Co. controlling interest in the Utah company. "The board of directors had a meeting Friday and decided that Dr. Jarvik would be terminated because of internal personal relations problems dealing with the operation of the company," Hansen said. He said the action "had to do with internal company matters, the normal operational matters that are true of any company." He declined to elaborate.

Norwegian ship attacked by pirates

OSLO (R) — Five pirates armed with knives slipped on board a Norwegian tanker carrying gas as it passed through the Straits of Singapore, robbed some of the crew and disappeared into the night, shipping sources have said. Olav Olafsen, spokesman for Havtor Management, which owns the ship, told Reuters the pirates had approached the 14,000-tonne Igloo Moss — on its way from the Gulf to Thailand — in a small fast boat just before midnight last Thursday. "It's incredible no one saw them," he said, adding that three of the 15 Norwegian crew were on the bridge at the time. The pirates found the chief officer asleep, tied him up and robbed him, the captain and some other crew members of money and personal possessions. The chief officer managed to free himself and raise the alarm after the pirates had left the ship. No one was hurt.

Amsterdam to erect monument to homosexuals

AMSTERDAM (R) — Work was expected to begin in the centre of Amsterdam on a monument commemorating homosexual victims of persecution through the ages, according to a spokesman for the Dutch homosexual group COC. The 400,000-guilder (\$200,000) monument consists of three pieces of pink marble evoking the triangle badges which homosexuals were forced to wear in Nazi concentration camps. The project is paid for by public subsidies and private funds raised in part through an all-night charity concert in the Dutch capital's Concertgebouw Music Hall last December. The marbles will be placed at the foot of a church next to one of the city's canals.

'Firebug' back in court after cell blaze

NAMBOUR, Australia (R) — An Australian veteran of the Vietnam War, already charged with burning down four churches, a bank and a hairdressing salon in a single night in this Queensland town, was back in court Tuesday after a blaze in his prison cell. Kenneth Goschalk, 43, was remanded in custody until Tuesday on 10 arson charges and a further two of wilfully damaging his cell. After Tuesday's court appearance, Goschalk was kept under close supervision in a padded cell before being taken to Brisbane Jail. Goschalk appeared in court last Saturday on arson charges after the buildings were gutted on the eve of Anzac Day, when Australia remembers its war dead.

'Subway vigilante' called sadist

NEW YORK (R) — "Subway vigilante" Bernhard Goetz has finally gone on trial with a prosecutor calling him a warped sadist and defence lawyers saying he is a mugging victim with a right to shoot back. New York criminal court was surrounded by police in riot gear and pro and anti-Goetz demonstrators as the trial began almost two-and-a-half years after the wily electrical engineer shot four black youths aboard a subway train because he thought they were about to mug him. The Dec. 22, 1984, incident prompted a heated debate over whether Goetz, who is white, was a trigger-happy racist or a potential crime victim simply defending himself in the urban jungle of New York.

Ortega ready to discuss better ties with U.S.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega has said that Nicaragua is ready to begin negotiations with the United States to normalise relations through "firm and verifiable agreements" on the security interests of both nations.

Speaking at the opening session of the 77th conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union attended by delegates from 87 countries, Mr. Ortega also urged the United States "to end its illegal policy and respect the judgment of the International Court of Justice."

The International Court, in The Hague, ruled in 1986 that the United States was illegally supporting contra rebels fighting for the past five years to overthrow Sandinista government.

As the conference began, there were reports Sandinista troops had launched a major offensive in northern Nicaragua to push the contras back to Honduras, where they have their main bases.

"The United States is repeating historical mistakes," Mr. Ortega told 1,000 delegates to the conference, members of parliaments and congresses from throughout

the world.

"Instead of supporting the democratic process in Nicaragua, the United States has gone on to take the position of the perpetrators of military coups, insisting on waging a bloody war which has claimed 40,000 victims from the Nicaraguan people and \$8.2 billion in losses," Mr. Ortega said.

"Nicaragua is ready to reach firm and verifiable agreements declaring the Central American region as a zone of peace, free of all foreign military presence," Mr. Ortega said.

Mr. Ortega said the state of emergency in Nicaragua that limits civil rights was necessary due to "foreign aggression."

"We have kept and we will continue to keep our country open to all ideological currents without allowing this to undermine the basic tenets of our revolutionary process," he said.

The Parliamentary Union's five-day meeting will discuss proposals for peace in the Middle East, including the Iran-Iraq war, and international efforts to achieve fair trade and to stop the arms race.

Nicaragua masses troops in the north

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Sandinista troops were massed in northern Nicaragua in an attempt to trap U.S.-supported contra rebels or force them across the Honduran border, a Western diplomat with access to intelligence reports has said.

On Saturday, Defence Minister Humberto Ortega said the military had launched an offensive the previous day and had "collided" with troops from the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, or FDN, the largest rebel fighting group.

But the diplomat, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said that although troops were massed in the area, no anti-guerrilla operation had begun.

"Last week, we saw the concentrations of forces that would represent the type of offensive that (Ortega) was talking about," he said. "But we have not seen the beginning of the sweep itself."

Mr. Ortega said the offensive was taking place near the Honduran border in the Wina River Valley, 250 kilometres north east of Managua in a rugged area virtually inaccessible to motor vehicle.

The Sandinista government severely restricts movements of journalists to the battle areas. The contras, who usually issue news releases in Honduras, have not commented on the situation in northern Nicaragua.

The diplomat said he was perplexed as to why Mr. Ortega had announced the offensive prematurely, but added he was sure it would take place since it had been made public.

"We will see if the contras can get away by slipping around their flanks," the diplomat said. "Of course, they can slip into Honduras."

However, he said the rebel high command would discourage such a tactic because it has made a commitment to Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo that the guerrillas would try to avoid returning to Honduras.

The contras have maintained camps in the southern part of that country since the start of their fight five years ago. Their presence in Honduras, an impoverished nation that is a close ally of the United States, has led to clashes between Sandinista and Honduran troops.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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A SURE GUESS

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K 8 7
♥ A 6 3
♦ J 10 5 4
♣ 8 5 4

WEST
♠ 9 5 2
♥ J 8 7
♦ A 6 3
♣ K Q J 10

EAST
♠ Q J 10 6
♥ Q 9 5 2
♦ 9 8 7
♣ 9 8

SOUTH
♠ A 4 8
♥ Q 10 4
♦ K Q 2
♣ A 7 3 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 NT
Pass 2 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Sometimes the location of a key card is completely unknown. To test your ability to guess right, cover the East and West hands and see how you would play two no trump after the lead of the king of clubs. We will take you through the play of the first few tricks.

The auction is straightforward. Since you stole a point for your one

سكينة المصطفى